



March 9, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders Schumer and McConnell,

Last week, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted to advance the nomination of Representative Debra Haaland (D-N.M.) to be the next Secretary of the Interior. Safari Club International (SCI) and its membership have serious concerns about the Congresswoman's commitment to protect the rights and freedoms of America's hunting community, based on her committee testimony and record in the U.S. House.

Specifically, SCI is concerned by Rep. Haaland's refusal to commit to supporting a no-net-loss policy for hunting and fishing access on America's public lands. Senator Steve Daines (R-Mont.) pressed the Congresswoman on this issue in her confirmation hearing. In response, Rep. Haaland stated that she would "work with" all stakeholders to promote multiple use public land management. This response does not provide a clear commitment to no-net-loss and therefore does not address the concerns of America's hunters and anglers.

Committing to support a no-net-loss policy is committing to sound stewardship of our natural resources. Hunters and anglers are essential to the effective management of public land. Hunting license sales and federal taxes on a wide variety of hunting supplies contribute funds directly to state wildlife management. All of this stands to decline—with consequential losses for wildlife and habitat—if access to public lands for hunters and anglers is reduced.

If Rep. Haaland truly supports multiple use land management, clearly stating her commitment to support a no-net-loss policy should be an easy clarification. Before bringing her nomination to a vote on the Senate floor, SCI encourages you to ensure Rep. Haaland clarifies this position on behalf of America's hunting community. This will go a long way toward strengthening the relationship between the Department of the Interior and America's millions of sportsmen and women.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Laird Hamberlin".

W. Laird Hamberlin
CEO

Safari Club International
Safari Club International Foundation