



The Honorable Debra Haaland  
Secretary  
United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Secretary Haaland:

On behalf of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) I would like to offer you my congratulations on your historic confirmation as U.S. Secretary of the Interior and the first Native American cabinet secretary. As experts in fields including land and water conservation, designing and planning parks, trails, and open spaces, and climate change mitigation, ASLA's members look forward to working with you and Department and Agency staff to protect and enhance America's public lands and waters.

Landscape architects appreciate your commitment to the environment and your work on protecting America's public lands. Your leadership on the House Natural Resources Committee brought much needed change to the way the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the land management agencies consider countless issues, from climate change to maintenance to environmental justice to green infrastructure and more. ASLA has long advocated for the permanent authorization and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the only federal conservation program that helps fund local parks. Through your support of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act and sponsorship of the Great American Outdoors Act, you ensured that LWCF will be able to fulfil its promises for generations to come. Additionally, through the Great American Outdoors Act—which ASLA helped shepherd through Congress—the land management agencies you now oversee will finally have the funding to address their maintenance backlogs. I am comforted to know that under your leadership the implementation of these funds will be done in a just, resilient, and sustainable way.

Landscape architects are experts in planning and designing for land and water conservation and play leading roles in the development of parks, trails, and recreation projects across the nation. Our profession offers the experience to mitigate the effects of climate change through innovative design. Many landscape architects work for and with DOI and its agencies, including many housed at or contracting with the National Park Service's (NPS) Denver Service Center as well as countless others at DOI, NPS, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sites and offices across America. I urge you to look to landscape architects in both the public and private sectors to help develop programs and policies to further your agenda, as well as in planning, designing, and executing projects under your purview.

ASLA and the profession believe strongly in policies that ensure equity and environmental justice and recognize that meaningful community engagement is an important step in the planning and design process. I applaud your commitment to equity and environmental justice and anticipate the positive changes this dedication will bring to the Department.

Congratulations, again, on your historic confirmation as Secretary of the Interior. As you work to craft and implement the Biden-Harris administration's agenda, I hope you call on ASLA and our members to partner with you and the Department. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or ASLA Manager of Federal Government Affairs Daniel Hart at [dhart@asla.org](mailto:dhart@asla.org) for assistance or additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Torey Carter-Conneen", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Torey Carter-Conneen  
Chief Executive Officer