



December 17, 2018

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Nominee for the Secretary of the Interior

Dear Mr. President:

With the departure of Secretary Ryan Zinke, we know that you are putting great thought and deliberation into your search for a new Secretary of the Interior. On behalf of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), I respectfully request that you ensure your eventual nominee is devoted to protecting and preserving America's environment and natural resources for current and future generations.

The stated mission of the Department of the Interior (DOI) is to conserve and manage our nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people. We believe that the next Secretary of the Interior should hold true to that mission and ensure that all Americans have access to our national parks, monuments, and wildlife refuges. Our national parks and federal lands are at a crossroads with the ever-growing \$12 billion backlog in deferred maintenance and the expiration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The next Secretary should work with Congress to alleviate the backlog without further compromising LWCF.

Climate change is threatening the world's ecological system. The next Secretary should recognize the effects climate change is having on our public lands and proactively work to ensure those impacts are addressed throughout DOI. ASLA strongly believes in adapting to global climate change through resiliency, green infrastructure, and conservation, and DOI should be a leader in climate change, adaptation, and resiliency through its management of public lands.

Lastly, DOI should have a diverse and inclusive atmosphere for staff and all visitors to feel welcome to enjoy America's public lands. The many landscape architects who work with and for DOI are committed to upholding values of inclusion and diversity, and those values should be demonstrated by the Secretary of the Interior and the entire agency.

Since 1899, ASLA and its members have been stewards of our national parks and public lands by working at all levels of government and in the private sector to guarantee that our natural wonders are lasting and accessible for all. We believe in resiliency and sustainability, and we practice these beliefs in our work and everyday lives. We have been leaders in preservation, conservation, and protection of our natural and built

environments, and ASLA believes the next Secretary of the Interior should be one as well.



Please take the above into consideration when naming the next Secretary of the Interior. DOI should be headed by a Secretary who is truly dedicated to the protection and preservation of our public lands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nancy Somerville". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nancy C. Somerville, Hon. ASLA
Executive Vice President and CEO
American Society of Landscape Architects