

March 4, 2021

Senator Mike Lee
Senator Mitt Romney
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Lee and Romney:

As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints we know that we must answer the call to be good stewards of earth and of creation. God's first instruction to mankind, as recorded in our scriptures, is to "replenish the earth." The president and prophet of the Church, Russell M. Nelson, reiterates that "we should care for the earth, be wise stewards over it, and preserve it for future generations. And we are to love and care for one another." (see "The Creation." General Conference, April 2000).

Land conservation plays an important role in our stewardship of the earth. We know that how we take care of our public lands is part of how we take care of each other. As Latter-day Saints committed to caring for God's creation, we are heartened to see Representative Debra Haaland of New Mexico nominated as Secretary of the Interior. We believe she will incorporate these vital principles and balance into the management of public lands.

We urge you to confirm Representative Haaland as Secretary of the Interior so that she can lead the agency in ways that will champion stewardship of the earth. Our public lands are at the forefront of our work for stewarding God's creation. As the first Native American to lead the Department of Interior, Representative Haaland will elevate Indigenous voices and bring attention to the work of justice for all, while also healing the land. When the earth thrives, we thrive, too.

We are confident that Representative Haaland will meet this challenge and lead the agency in ways that protect God's creation for the benefit current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Marc Coles-Ritchie, Chair, Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance Board
Rachael Lauritzen, Vice Chair, Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance Board
Hannah Barton, Secretary, Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance Board
Soren Simonsen, FAIA, Treasurer, Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance Board
Ben Abbott, PhD, Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance Board
M. Scott Fisher, EdD, Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance Board
Stephen Glines, Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance Board
Ty Markham, PsyD, Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance Board
Kent Udell, PhD, Mormon Environmental Stewardship Alliance Board