



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez applauds historic moment as Deb Haaland selected to lead the Department of the Interior under the Biden-Harris Administration

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez stated that he is overjoyed about the Biden-Harris transition team’s selection of Congresswoman Deb Haaland (D-N.M.), to serve as the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior when the Biden-Harris Administration takes office in January. The New Mexico Congresswoman will be the very first Native American in history to serve in high-level position.

“It is truly a historic and unprecedented day for all Indigenous people as Congresswoman Deb Haaland has been selected to head one of the largest federal agencies, which oversees the BIA and BIE, at the highest level of the federal government. I congratulate her and I also thank the Biden-Harris team for making a statement and keeping their word to place Native Americans in high-level cabinet positions. I am looking forward to continuing to work with Congresswoman Haaland and the Biden-Harris Administration in the years to come,” said President Nez.



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Congresswoman Deb Haaland.

In November, President Nez publicly stated his support for Congresswoman Haaland to serve as the next Interior Secretary stating, “As a member of Congress, she has been a strong voice for all tribal nations and the people of New Mexico on a wide variety of issues including land management, clean energy, economic development, social justice, and job creation. Her advocacy for equality and justice has never wavered and continues to grow stronger. Her ability to weigh the issues from social, economic, and political standpoints is unique and something that is not easily found.”

President Nez added that Haaland's unique background and experiences, dedication, and commitment to public service are exactly what is needed at the helm of the Department of the Interior, especially for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education.

"We need a person like Congresswoman Haaland to lead the Department of the Interior to build a stronger relationship between the federal government and tribal nations," stated President Nez in November.

"The appointment of Deb Haaland is not only be historic, but it also sends a clear message to all tribes and people across America that the Biden-Harris Administration is committed to addressing the wrongs of the past and clearing a path for real change and opportunity for tribal nations," added President Nez.

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