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Navajo President Buu Nygren expresses support for North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum as Interior secretary

WINDOW ROCK, ARIZ. – Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren today issued this statement in support of the confirmation of North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum as the next Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of the Interior.

Statement of Support for North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum as the next Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior

**by
Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren**

I am honored to join my fellow tribal leaders to express support for President-elect Donald J. Trump's nomination of North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum to serve as Secretary of the Interior in the incoming Administration.

Governor Burgum's extensive experience, proven leadership and demonstrated commitment to Indian Country makes him especially qualified to lead the Department of the Interior with integrity and purpose.

As North Dakota governor, Governor Burgum worked diligently to strengthen government-to-government relationships. He promoted collaboration between state and tribal leaders. His efforts to advocate for equitable tax-sharing agreements, increase tribal representation in decision-making, and advance cooperative law enforcement initiatives shows his dedication to advance the interests of tribal communities and address shared priorities.

Governor Burgum's leadership consistently and meticulously addressed important issues that impact Indian Country. These include public safety, education, economic development and infrastructure. His practical and inclusive approach stressed his understanding of tribal sovereignty and treaty rights. As governor, he always shows readiness to ensure that federal policies empower tribal communities and honor the commitments made to them.

I am confident that Governor Burgum comes to this important position with the intention to build on the trust he has established with North Dakota's five tribal nations and will extend it to the broader tribal communities across the country.

He is a man who respects and understands tribal sovereignty, promotes responsible development, will use his leadership qualities to enhance the federal-tribal partnership to create meaningful opportunities for tribal nations to thrive.

On behalf of the Navajo Nation, I look forward to work alongside Governor Doug Burgum. As partners, I look to advance the shared priorities of Indian Country. Together, we can strengthen the long partnership between tribes and the federal government to ensure progress and to address the pressing needs of our communities.