

July 10, 2025

The Hon. John Thune
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Chuck Schumer
Senate Democratic Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy & Natural
Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy & Natural
Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Expeditious Consideration of DOI Nominees

Dear Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Chairman Lee, and Ranking Member Heinrich:

We write to express our gratitude for the Senate's confirmation of President Donald Trump's picks to lead the Department of the Interior (DOI) – Secretary Doug Burgum and Deputy Secretary Katharine MacGregor – and to express our strong support for the expeditious consideration of all remaining DOI nominees who are currently awaiting Senate floor action.

The Trump Administration is acting swiftly to promote increased domestic energy production, after the previous administration took a whole-of-government approach to targeting the American energy industry. As trade associations representing oil and natural gas producers, we applaud this renewed focus on energy dominance and the resulting benefits to economic and national security it provides.

Since his first day in office in January, President Trump has issued a number of executive orders directing federal agencies to examine and reevaluate policies, rules, and regulations impacting oil and natural gas development. While some of the previous administration's policies have been quickly rescinded, it is imperative that the administration creates durable, lasting updates to the federal regulatory regime that will provide needed certainty for companies going forward.

At DOI, acting officials and dedicated career staff are working diligently to support the president's energy dominance agenda, yet there remains a lack of Senate-confirmed leadership

to direct those efforts. To that end, we urge the Senate to advance the following nominees on the floor and to schedule a vote as soon as possible:

- PN22-2, Ms. Leslie Beyer to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Lands and Minerals Management;
- PN22-4, Mr. William Doffermyre to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior,
- PN22-27, Dr. Andrea Travnicek to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Water and Science; and
- PN25-30, Dr. Ned Mamula to be Director of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Each of these nominees has been placed on the Senate's Executive Calendar following favorable votes out of the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources last month, and they are now simply awaiting a final confirmation vote. If confirmed, each of these individuals will play a role in advancing the energy dominance agenda.

It is especially important that Ms. Beyer is confirmed without delay. The Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals Management plays a critical role overseeing energy development on federal lands and waters at DOI. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which administers the federal onshore oil and gas program at DOI, falls under the purview of this office, as does the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. As the administration undertakes rulemakings and policy changes to return the federal government to its proper role as steward of the federal mineral estate, this office needs a leader who can guide the thousands of employees at DOI tasked with carrying out these responsibilities. Ms. Beyer will be just that leader.

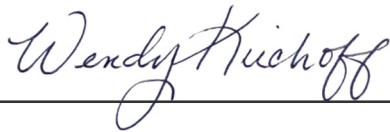
We also note the expansive role that litigation has played in shaping DOI's oil and gas program over the past decade. Litigious environmental groups who wish to end all future oil and gas development on federal lands have challenged nearly every BLM lease sale since the end of the Obama Administration, leaving much of the previous decade's oil and gas leases tied up in federal courts. Once again, it is crucial that DOI have a Senate-confirmed leader in charge of the Solicitor's office to manage the Department's response to these lawsuits, and we urge quick action on Mr. Doffermyre's nomination.

In addition, we underscore the urgent need for the President to put forth a nominee for Director of the Bureau of Land Management, a role central to shaping and implementing the federal onshore oil and gas program. The BLM Director provides critical leadership across the agency, ensuring consistency, accountability, and responsiveness in decisions that affect the nation's energy and mineral resources. We strongly encourage the administration to send a qualified nominee to the Senate as soon as possible, and we ask the Senate to prioritize their consideration and confirmation, allowing the agency to operate at its highest capacity and carry out its vital mission.

As noted above, the acting appointees for these positions – and the many other roles that must be filled in the months to come – are diligently working to advance the administration’s agenda. It cannot be overstated, however, how important it is to have confirmed officials in these positions. The Senate’s imprimatur carries substantial weight within the agencies, ensures direct lines of authority extending up to the Secretary and ultimately the President, and frees up deputies to carry out their assigned tasks without juggling multiple roles.

We understand and acknowledge how limited Senate floor time can be, especially at the start of a new administration when there are hundreds of pending nominees competing with important legislative priorities. Still, we emphasize that the federal onshore oil and natural gas program relies on leaders who can manage a large federal bureaucracy across numerous western states. We graciously request that the Senate swiftly confirm these pending nominees, including a BLM Director, and we thank you for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,



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