

Laura Daniel-Davis  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Land and Mineral Management  
US Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

April 26, 2021

Dear Ms. Daniel-Davis,

After years of engagement, during which requests for meaningful engagement on land use management decisions from tribal leaders, advocates for fish habitat, and a variety of stakeholders, often fell on deaf ears, we are grateful that the Biden administration's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has swiftly responded to the clear and resounding desire for a fair, balanced and deliberate management planning process to determine the future of our public lands. The blanket lifting of the Public Land Orders would have opened lands that are critical habitat for our subsistence hunting, fishing and cultural values to industrial exploration and development. The BLM's decision on April 16th to pause and commit to a two-year review and reconsideration of these decisions is being celebrated across our state as a win for the hundreds of communities that rely upon BLM lands for physical and cultural sustenance.

We are also grateful to hear confirmation that the DOI is committed to honor the Alaska Native Vietnam Veteran land selections under the Dingell Conservation, Management and Recreation Act of 2019.

On the heels of Secretary Haaland's confirmation and the naming of Raina Thiele, the first Alaska Native woman as the department's top official on Alaska issues, we commend the Department for its commitment to Alaska indigenous issues and thank you for your decision this week. It is refreshing to have an administration listen to our concerns and respond with a clear and productive path forward; we look forward to engaging in a robust process with the BLM in the coming two years.

Sincerely,

Norton Bay Intertribal Watershed Council  
(With representatives from the Native Villages of Elim, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, Golovin and Shishmaref on the board).

United Tribes of Bristol Bay  
Orutsararmiut Native Council  
Native Village of Eek  
Native Village of Elim  
Native Village of Nulato  
Curyung Tribal Council  
Kasigluk Traditional Council  
Levelock Village Council

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Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Senator Daniel Sullivan  
Representative Don Young  
Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland  
Senior Advisor for Alaska Affairs and Strategic Priorities Raina Theil  
Deputy Director of Policy and Programs Nada Wolff Culver  
Solicitor of the Department of Interior Robert Anderson  
Deputy Solicitor for Land Natalie Landreth