



**COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES**

Blackfeet Nation • Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon  
Crow Nation • Eastern Shoshone Tribe • Fort Belknap Indian Community • Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation • Navajo Nation • Northern Arapaho Tribe • Oglala Sioux Tribe • Rosebud Sioux Tribe  
San Carlos Apache Tribe • Shoshone-Bannock Tribes • Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation  
Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe • Spokane Tribe • Ute Indian Tribe • Ute Mountain Ute Tribe • Walker River Paiute Tribe

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January 14, 2025

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
363 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich,

I write as Chairman of the Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT)—an intertribal organization representing the interests of the more than 50 tribes with reservations of 100,000 acres or more, encompassing more than 95% of the Indian Country lands and more than half the Native American population—to deliver COLT’s enthusiastic endorsement of Governor Doug Burgum’s nomination to serve as the Secretary of the Interior.

The Secretary of the Interior is the chief steward of the trust relationship between the United States and Indian tribes. From our perspective, Governor Burgum was very successful in a similar role as Governor of North Dakota. He has been a stalwart advocate for tribes, clearly understanding and respecting tribal sovereignty. We know he cares deeply about Native American people.

It has been incredible for COLT tribes to have such a close supporter nominated to the Secretary’s Office. He is someone in whom we have deep trust and confidence. We have gone to him with our most complex, difficult issues over many years. We may not always agree, but he has always made himself personally available, meeting with tribal leadership, taking our calls, and making us feel like, as Governor, he believed he worked for our people, and indeed all of Indian Country. We know he would bring this same approach to his role as Secretary.

We also appreciate his business and leadership experience. He knows technology and he knows energy, He knows how to manage a budget and incentivize employees. He always cares deeply about people. We know many people with whom he worked over decades. He remembers their names, he asks about their families, he makes time for them even years removed from direct working relationships. He is fundamentally a good person. He is exactly the kind of leader tribes need at the Interior Department.



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Governor Burgum has COLT's highest recommendation and endorsement to serve as Secretary of the Interior.

Very Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:  
*Chairman J. Garret Renville*  
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J. Garret Renville, COLT Chairman,  
Chairman of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse  
Reservation, South Dakota