



COALITION OF LARGE TRIBES

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

April 23, 2026

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

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
Environment and Public Works Committee
170 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

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Environment and Public Works Committee
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lee, Chairman Moore Capito, Ranking Member Heinrich, and Ranking Member Whitehouse:

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 strong endorsement of Mr. Kevin Lilly’s nomination to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

The Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks directly oversees the National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)—agencies whose policies often intersect with Treaty rights, sacred sites, and subsistence resources. In our experience with Mr. Lilly since he has been acting in this role, we have been heartened by his openness to work with tribal leaders on these issues, particularly with respect to COLT priorities like bison co-stewardship and access to federal lands for important tribal religious ceremonies. Mr. Lilly’s long policy record echoes our personal experience with him, and we see him as a reliable advocate for greater tribal participation in the governance, stewardship and beneficial uses of public lands and natural resources, including conservation.

Additionally, we have confidence in his ability to serve flowing from his experience leading a large regulatory agency as Chair of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, as well as



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managing complex organizations in the private sector and serving as an Army veteran. We value his managerial competence and chain-of-command experience, particularly when agency implementation capacity—not just policy intent—determines whether tribal sovereignty, Treaties, and other government-to-government agreements are honored.

We appreciate the openness we have seen from the nominee to:

- Tribal tourism partnerships linked to National Parks, including removing barriers to local hiring, a way for tribal citizens to be more engaged at Parks close to home;
- Access to recreation and conservation funding;
- Support for tribal wildlife hunting and protection and habitat restoration programs;
- Respect for Treaty rights; and
- Expansion of co-management and co-stewardship agreements, as well as 638 contracting.

The Assistant Secretary’s portfolio directly affects these areas, and tribes need an Assistant Secretary we know will be willing to hear from us, consider our perspectives, and lead his team to implementation. He has been very accessible and open. His approach is a breath of fresh air.

COLT has significant confidence in Mr. Lilly’s leadership. We urge his soonest confirmation.

Very Respectfully,

Signed by:

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