

**U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources**  
**May 8, 2025 Hearing: The Doffermyre, Jereza, and Haustveit Nominations**  
**Questions for the Record Submitted to Mr. William Doffermyre**

**Questions for the Record from Ranking Member Martin Heinrich**

**Question 1:** In March, Secretary Burgum violated the Vacancies Act by handing Tyler Hassen the duties of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget in an acting capacity at DOI. Last month, the Secretary further empowered Mr. Hassen by giving him extensive authority over departmental functions. Mr. Hassen first joined the Department as a representative of DOGE.

If confirmed, will you commit to providing all legal analysis performed by the Office of the Solicitor in connection with Mr. Hassen's appointment and the Department's compliance with the Vacancies Reform Act?

**Response:** I am not at the Department and am not familiar with the issue that you are raising. I cannot make a commitment on this situation without knowing all of the facts or analyzing the law. I can commit that, if confirmed, I will follow the law and will always advise Department leaders to follow the law.

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**Questions for the Record from Senator Steve Daines**

**Question 1:** Mr. Doffermyre, if confirmed to serve as Solicitor of the United States Department of the Interior, do you commit to ensuring the Office of the Solicitor provides impartial legal counsel and advice to the Department while upholding the highest standards of ethics and integrity?

**Response:** Yes.

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**Questions for the Record from Senator Ron Wyden**

**Question 1:** Mr. Doffermyre, during your confirmation hearing you spoke about the importance of eliminating uncertainty in the permitting process. Would you agree that the need for this certainty extends beyond permit to other policies that alter the regulatory or financial environment and that the Department of Interior should consult closely with Congress and stakeholders before making any changes to policy that would significantly alter outside decision making?

**Response: I believe that engagement with stakeholders and Congress, whether required by statute or not, enhances the durability of decision making.**

**Question 2:** During World War II, Japanese Americans and Alaska Natives were wrongfully incarcerated at the Minidoka War Relocation Center in Idaho. Today, the Minidoka National Historic Site is managed by the National Park Service to tell stories of Japanese American courage and military service. If confirmed, can you commit to ensuring that the Department of Interior upholds its obligations to appropriately manage Minidoka and other important units of the National Park System from incompatible development and encourage close coordination between decision makers and stakeholders before any actions are taken that may impact these sites and the surrounding areas?

**Response: As I stated at my hearing, I have a tremendous respect for our National Parks and created some of my most fond memories at parks across the country. I believe that coordination with stakeholders and Congress enhances the durability of decision making; and, if confirmed, I commit to following the law and to advising the Secretary and other Department officials to follow the law.**

**Question 3:** Wildfires have ravaged entire communities back home in Oregon. Last year, a record number of acres burned in the state. Will you ensure that the Trump administration does not take any further actions that impact the capacity of Department of Interior or its partners to mitigate, manage or recovery from wildfire disasters? Will you also commit to ensuring that any funding or authorities provided for wildfire risk mitigation and forest health improvement are used for projects that are primarily designed to achieve these outcomes rather than projects where that is only a byproduct of another management goal?

**Response: The impacts of wildland fires have been devastating, and the Secretary has committed to using all tools available to reduce fuel loads and address wildfire risk. If confirmed, I will work with the Secretary and other decision makers and provide sound legal advice as the Department works to address this important issue.**

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**Questions for the Record from Senator John Hickenlooper**

**Question 1:** This administration has made its central goal to sharply reduce the number of federal workers under the guise of efficiency. The layoffs have been chaotic, haphazard, and have been ruled illegal in the courts.

The administration has also frozen many funding programs, including at the Department of the Interior, despite congressional approval.

If nominated, you will serve as the legal counsel for the Department of the Interior. What is your opinion on the legality of agencies freezing funds that have been approved by Congress?

**Response:** I am not at the Department and am not familiar with what appropriated funds have or have not been obligated. As I stated at my hearing, if confirmed, I will review the facts and the law and provide sound legal advice to the Secretary and other decision makers.

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**Questions for the Record from Senator Alex Padilla**

**Question 1:** When Kate MacGregor testified before the ENR Committee, she said she was unaware of any mining activity within the boundaries of a national park. Six days after her hearing, the BLM attempted to authorize mining within a national park in California. In your written testimony, you mentioned you would be a faithful steward of America’s Best Idea, our National Park System. Do you believe industrial mining should be allowed within a National Park?

**Response:** As I mentioned during the hearing, I have a tremendous respect for our National Parks and created some of my most fond memories at parks across the country. I am also unaware of any mining activity within the boundaries of a national park. If confirmed, I commit to following the law and to advising the Secretary and other Department officials to follow the law with respect to authorized activities within our national parks.

**Question 2:** The Bureau of Land Management recently authorized mining within the Mojave National Preserve — a national park unit known for its sweeping desert landscapes and deep significance to Native American Tribes. BLM’s decision raises serious legal concerns. If confirmed, I expect you to uphold the law and ensure that any mining in park units is either prohibited or subject to full environmental review and Tribal consultation. Are you committed to following the Mining in the Parks Act and its requirement for a National Park Service-approved plan of operations?

**Response:** As I am not currently at the Department, I am not versed in the implementation of the Mining in the Parks Act. However, if confirmed, I commit to following the law and to advising the Secretary and other Department officials to follow the law.