

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 15, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

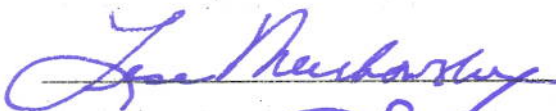
We write regarding today's departure of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Director and the decision you must now make regarding the nomination of a successor. In accordance with the Senate's constitutional role in providing advice and consent on presidential nominees, we respectfully ask that you take our perspective into account when considering individuals to lead the USGS.

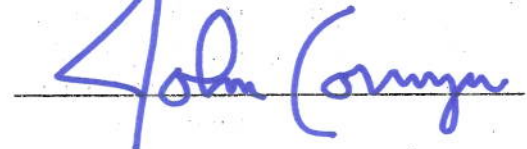
It is our hope that you will nominate an economic geologist for the position of USGS Director. We believe that an individual with such a background could most effectively balance the additional activities that USGS has taken on over the years with those contemplated by its Organic Act, which provides for "the classification of the public lands and examination of the geological structure, mineral resources, and products of the national domain."

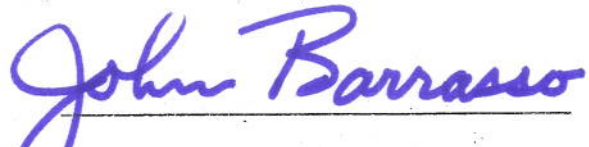
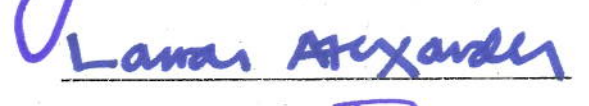
The benefits of restoring an emphasis on geological surveying at USGS would be significant. Knowing how many mineral resources we have – and where they are located – can inform decisions about their development and help to attract investment for the same. An economic geologist is most likely to recognize these benefits, pursue them, and provide appropriate leadership as USGS Director.

We hope that this advice will help to inform your decision-making and facilitate a swift confirmation process.

Sincerely,





Lyndy Wick
John Hosen
Jim Hill

David W. Hill
Chris L. Hatch

Cc: The Honorable Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
Dr. Ralph J. Cicerone, President of the National Academy of Sciences

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