

**STATEMENT OF
TOMMY P. BEAUDREAU
NOMINEE FOR THE POSITION OF
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE**

DECEMBER 12, 2013

Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Murkowski, and members of the Committee, I am honored to appear before you today as the President's nominee to be the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management and Budget. I am joined today by my wife, Carrie, and our children, Nellie and Auggie. I'd like to thank Grace Episcopal Day School for excusing their absences this morning. I have been with the Department of the Interior (DOI) for nearly three and a half years, and during this entire period of public service my family has been a constant source of support and inspiration, for which I am profoundly thankful.

While I have appeared before this Committee previously in my capacity as the Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and acting as the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM), I will take a moment to reintroduce myself.

I was born in Colorado, where my mother is from, and was raised in Alaska. My father moved our family to Alaska for the outdoor adventure of a life in the Last Frontier and the opportunity for a Vietnam veteran to get a good job working in the Prudhoe Bay oil field on the North Slope. Because of my upbringing, I have a first-hand understanding of the importance of responsible resource development to the economic well-being of communities and families. Having grown up hunting, fishing, hiking and skiing in the vast Alaskan wilderness, I also have a deep appreciation for the special character of the American outdoors. We have a shared responsibility to conserve these wondrous spaces so that future generations have them to experience, enjoy and learn from.

These are the values I brought to the Interior Department when I left my law practice in 2010 to join the Administration's response to the *Deepwater Horizon* blowout and oil spill. The Macondo well was still flowing at the time, and the direction from the President and Secretary Salazar was to reform offshore drilling standards and oversight so that the American people can be confident that oil and gas development on our oceans, which is vital to our economy, is safe for workers and for the environment, and is overseen by strong, independent and effective regulators.

Three years later, offshore oil and gas in the Gulf has rebounded strongly. There are more rigs working there today than prior to the spill, and this growth is expected to continue. I am proud to say as well that the activity is being conducted more safely and more responsibly, and is subject to stronger oversight, than ever before.

We also have made substantial progress standing up new, renewable sources of energy both onshore and offshore. We are already more than halfway to the President's goal of approving 20,000 megawatts of renewable energy on public lands by 2020, and earlier this year successfully held the first two competitive offshore wind lease sales in federal waters.

I am proud of this track record, which has been premised on hard work, listening intently to a broad spectrum of stakeholders, working collaboratively with States, tribes and local communities, and thinking creatively and positively about developing solutions to seemingly intractable problems. I believe this track record, my values and my approach to the issues are my most important qualifications.

I now look forward, if confirmed, to following my friend Rhea Suh as DOI's Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget and to continuing this collaborative, pragmatic and creative approach to tackling many of the most significant challenges, as well as seizing the substantial opportunities, that are before the country and the Interior Department.

As the primary steward of our shared landscapes and resources, DOI has a special place and set of responsibilities on behalf of the American people. The activities we oversee are an enormous economic engine for the country. In 2012, DOI's programs contributed \$371 billion to the United States' economy and supported 2.3 million jobs across sectors including recreation and tourism, conventional and renewable energy development, grazing and timber harvests. Specifically, in 2012, there were 417 million visits to DOI-managed lands, and recreational visits alone contributed an estimated \$45 billion in economic activity, much of it benefitting local communities in rural areas. We also oversee the responsible development of approximately 23 percent of America's energy supplies, and DOI is the largest supplier and manager of water across 17 Western states. Interior is responsible for maintaining our special relationships with the 566 federally-recognized Tribes, and provides services to more than 1.7 million American Indian and Alaska Native people.

Secretary Jewell also has made it a major priority of the Department to strengthen connections between young people and the outdoors, so that new generations of Americans have the same formative experiences with the lands that are their shared birthright that I did growing up in Alaska. With tightening resources available for youth programs, it is imperative that we continue to aggressively leverage public investments as well as further develop partnerships with private institutions.

Secretary Jewell, as an experienced business person and chief executive officer, also has challenged us to take a hard look at the way DOI does business, with an eye toward cutting red-tape, finding efficiencies, working across organizations rather than in silos, and saving resources in light of increasingly constrained budgets.

As the Department's chief financial officer, I would be on point for building on DOI's successes in these areas, and it is a challenge that I look forward to with enthusiasm and energy. If confirmed, I will carry the same core principles of hard work, active and genuine engagement, humility and creative problem solving with me into this new role.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to discuss my nomination with you this morning, and for your consideration. I look forward to answering your questions.