

## Northern Arapaho Business Council

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February 22, 2021

Acting Secretary Scott de la Vega  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Acting Secretary de la Vega,

We write this letter on behalf of the Northern Arapaho Tribe to express our opposition to Secretarial Order No. 3395 and President Biden's Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, which resulted in an indefinite pause on new oil and natural gas leases on public lands. While these actions may be well intended, the unintended consequences are already devastating the State of Wyoming – causing real harm to our State's finances. We respectfully request you reconsider and rescind the 60-day suspension of new oil and gas leasing and drilling permits on federal land and water in Secretarial Order No. 3395, advocate for the White House to allow oil and gas leasing on public lands to resume, and determine a more reasonable way to examine your next steps for responsible management of federal lands.


The Northern Arapaho Business Council is the day-to-day governing body of the Northern Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Indian Reservation. Located in the Central-Western part of Wyoming, the Wind River Indian Reservation has oil and gas assets that provide resources to our tribal members and support tribal government operations. This gives us a direct interest in ensuring the oil and gas industry continues to support our community. As a tribal nation we are exempt from the leasing moratorium and we appreciate this, as being subject to the leasing moratorium would severely impact our tribe and directly threaten our sovereignty. However, revenue derived from oil and gas leasing throughout the rest of the state is a primary resource of funding for the Wyoming state treasury. As Wyoming citizens who are impacted by a reduction in State resources, we support the State of Wyoming's position in opposing the moratorium and urge the Biden Administration to reverse this policy.

The overreaching Secretarial and Executive Orders come at a time when our state officials, like other states throughout the country, are working to reverse the economic fallout from the Coronavirus pandemic. The moratorium has already postponed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) first quarter oil and gas leasing sale. Delays in leasing have already negatively impacted small to mid-size operators. The longer the orders remain in place the more revenue will decline and result in additional blows to our economy, the oil and gas workforce, and Wyoming's education system. This causes us great concern, as many Northern Arapaho

Tribal members live in cities and towns outside the Wind River Indian Reservation, and many of our youth attend schools funded by the State. We do not believe the intent of the orders are to negatively impact Wyoming families and economy and thus we respectfully request you reconsider and reverse them.

We appreciate the Biden Administration's goal of determining a responsible way to address climate change at home and abroad. We ask that you find an alternate way to consider your next steps without impacting the Wyoming economy. Furthermore, the NABC seeks meaningful consultation from the Secretary's office regarding the development of our energy resources in fulfillment of the U.S. government's trust responsibilities. We are hopeful that we can work together to find a path forward that accomplishes the Administration's objective without harming the citizens of Wyoming. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Kind regards,




Jordan Dresser  
Chairman



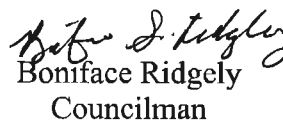
Lee Spoonhunter  
Co-Chairman



Kim Harjo  
Councilwoman



Stephen Fast Horse  
Councilman



Boniface Ridgely  
Councilman



Jared White Bull  
Councilman

Cc: The Honorable Mark Gordon  
The Honorable John Barrasso  
The Honorable Cynthia Lummis  
The Honorable Liz Cheney