



Dec. 5, 2022

Dear Senator,

On behalf of Western Leaders Network, a nonpartisan nonprofit organization of more than 450 local, tribal and state elected officials across the Interior West, I write to urge you to support the nomination of Laura Daniel-Davis for Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management, a critical leadership role affecting our public lands. Since Daniel-Davis was nominated more than a year ago, Western Leaders Network has advocated for her confirmation, and I write to you again to reiterate my support of this qualified nominee.

Western Leaders Network engages local, tribal and state elected officials in the Interior West to protect public lands, culturally significant places and wildlife habitat; advocate for healthy air and waters; build diverse and sustainable local economies; restore salmon populations in the Interior West and Pacific Northwest, and advance the Biden administration's America the Beautiful initiative to fight climate change.

Here in the Interior West, public lands and waters are the cornerstone of healthy and sustainable economies, our cultural heritage and our quality of life, but they are facing immense threats caused by climate change, such as prolonged heat and drought, the depletion of rivers and streams, extreme wildfire seasons and diminishing wildlife habitat. These problems are costly, devastating and threaten our very existence. The Interior Department has an outsized role in how our invaluable natural resources are used, managed and maintained, and so it is imperative that capable and experienced leaders are at the helm.

With more than two decades of public policy, nonprofit and government experience and more than 13 years spent working at the Interior Department, Daniel-Davis is the leader we need for Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management to ensure our public lands and waters endure for future generations.

Prior to her current position as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Daniel-Davis served in the following roles:

- Chief of Policy and Advocacy for the National Wildlife Federation

Western Leaders Network

1309 East 3rd Avenue • Suite 22 • Post Office Box 4433 • Durango, Colorado 81302
970-317-4264 • westernleaders.org

- Chief of Staff to Interior Secretaries Sally Jewell and Ken Salazar during the Obama administration Various roles at the Interior Department during the Clinton administration, including Associate Director of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
- Deputy Chief of Staff to former Congressman Mark Udall of Colorado

In these public and nonprofit roles, Daniel-Davis has worked on a range of issues, including climate change and energy policy, the protection and restoration of public lands and waters, Farm Bill conservation programs, and improving relations with tribal communities.

Local, tribal and state elected leaders, particularly in the West where the vast majority of our public lands are located, must have strong relationships with the agencies that steward our natural and cultural resources. We need administrative officials who are willing to listen, approach difficult issues with a collaborative spirit, and will include local leadership in decision-making that affects our public and tribal lands and resources.

We believe Daniel-Davis has the ability to work successfully with Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and President Biden to achieve national conservation and climate goals, and the vision to steer us toward a healthier and more sustainable future. Unfortunately, her confirmation has been repeatedly delayed despite her qualifications, and WLN has called on Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer to swiftly schedule a vote on her nomination. Your vote to confirm Laura Daniel-Davis is a vote to protect our public lands and waters, and I urge you now to confirm her so she can continue her important work of defending our public lands, waters and wildlife.

Sincerely,

Gwen Lachelt
Executive Director