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December 8, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader Schumer:

This letter is regarding the nomination of Laura Daniel Davis to serve as the Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management at the U.S. Department of the Interior, a position with tremendous importance to the nation's energy leasing and development activities. Laura is highly qualified for this position, having served as Chief of Staff to both Interior Secretaries Sally Jewell and Ken Salazar, and in a leadership role at the Department during the Clinton administration. She has also worked on Capitol Hill for then-Congressman Mark Udall, and as the Chief of Policy and Advocacy at the National Wildlife Federation.

In her previous positions at Interior, Laura gained a bird's-eye view of the Department and the important work conducted by all 70,000 employees. In her testimony before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on September 21, 2021, Laura described her preparation and motivation for this position: "In addition to my family, the Department of the Interior has been one of the most significant and formative influences on my life. The leadership positions I have held have given me knowledge of the public lands, the energy programs—both on and offshore—a deep understanding of the Department's operations, and the importance of collaboration."

Despite her obvious qualifications and experience, the consideration of Laura's nomination has languished; her nomination was announced on June 24, 2021—more than 500 days ago. In that time, she has twice appeared before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for a confirmation hearing, a highly unusual request.

The delayed consideration of Laura's nomination is costly beyond the number of days since it was announced. The Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM) plays a critical role in reviewing and approving energy development activities on our nation's public lands and offshore, including the approval of necessary transmission infrastructure to bring energy to market. The ASLM oversees the agencies responsible for ensuring the safety and accountability of offshore energy development, and the oversight of coal mining and reclamation of abandoned coal mines. It is a big job, and Laura is most certainly up to the task. Not having confirmed leadership in this role to oversee the four government agencies under the ASLM's purview can be considered equivalent to a corporation of nearly 12,000 employees without a CEO.

Additionally, the successful implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) depends on knowledgeable and effective public servants like Laura to evaluate and approve renewable energy projects that will bring our nation closer to reaching President Biden's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 50 percent by 2030. It is not an exaggeration to suggest that leaving this position vacant puts the commitments agreed to in the IRA at risk, not to mention the president's clean energy and climate goals. For example, the White House has said it wants to pledge 30 gigawatts of new offshore wind energy by 2030, requiring the approval of 16 wind farms by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, one of the agencies under the ASLM's purview. The Assistant Secretary will play a critical role in reviewing and approving the permits for these projects.

The women who have signed this letter in their personal capacity know Laura Daniel Davis –as a friend, a colleague, a mentor, and a leader. We have observed her leadership in action and we know she gets results. Laura's knowledgeable, inclusive, and confident approach to challenging issues is admirable and demonstrates the importance of having women in high-level leadership positions. Laura is thoughtful, smart, strategic, collaborative, and determined. She sets a fine example that inspires and motivates her team to work harder. Her policy acumen is unmatched, and she has a delightful sense of humor that helps remind those around her why this work matters. Given the opportunity, any one of us would be honored to work with Laura again.

We urge you to bring Laura's nomination to the floor for a final confirmation vote before Congress adjourns for the year. Leadership in government matters, and it would be a significant loss to the federal workforce if Laura is not confirmed to this position.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Wendy Adams

Alexandra Adams

Nahal Adler

Margie Alt

Maite Arce

Toni Armstrong

Greta Bagwell

Jennifer Barrett

Letty Belin

Yvonne Besvold

Lauren Bogard

Barbara Bramble

Elizabeth Breaux

Kristen Brengel

Mary Jo Brooks

Sharon Buccino

Nikki Buffa

Lisa Carpenter

Anne Castle

Sara Chieffo

Whitney Clapper

Valerie Cleland

Molly Click

Chante Coleman

Becky Conway

Celina Cunningham

Kathy DeCoster

Leah Donahey

Erin Eastwood

Lucy Evert

Jill Feldhusen

Hillary Fenrich

Jordan Finegan

America Fitzpatrick

Heather Fox  
Kimberly Gazenski  
Nicole Gentile  
Aviva Glaser  
Janessa Goldbeck  
Christy Goldfuss  
Lisa Guide  
Sarah Guy  
Sally Hardin  
Katie Harris  
Niki Hawthorne  
Shannon Heyck-Williams  
Adrienne Hollis  
Abigail Hopper  
Alison Huyett  
Margaux Isaksen  
Lisa Jaguzny  
Amelia Jenkins Morales  
Olivia Juarez  
Lesley Kane Szynal  
Shara Kaplin  
Sara Kendall  
Corley Kenna  
Amy Kenney  
Molly Lanphier  
Sarah Laskin  
Rachel Lightfoot  
Lucy Livesay  
Tara Losoff  
Betsy Loyless  
Diana Madson  
Jessica Maher  
Claudia Malloy  
Libby Marking  
Molly McUsic  
Jen Mihills  
Kristen Miller  
Debbie S. Miller  
Sara Moffat

Meg Morris  
Claire Moser  
Josie Norris  
Val Nosler Beck  
Suzanne O'Neill  
Jill Ozarski  
Isra Pananon Weeks  
Kim Paymaster  
Melinda Pierce  
Theresa Pierno  
Karla Raettig  
Kelly Reed  
Diane Regas  
Jessie Ritter  
Amy Roberts  
Jennifer Rokala  
Nicole Rom  
Jenny Rowland-Shea  
Ilana Rubin  
Katie Rupp  
Melissa Samet  
Kristen Sarri  
Janice Schneider  
Cynthia Shogan  
Julie Sibbing  
Jennifer Sisk  
Tiernan Sittenfeld  
Desirée Sorenson-Groves  
Whitney Tawney  
Terry Tempest Williams  
Abby Tinsley  
Heather Urban  
Karen Wagner  
Jessica Wahl  
Julie Waterman  
Glenn Watkins  
Lydia Weiss  
Nicole Whittington-Evans  
Meghan Wolf