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Truth  Compassion
Remember Who We Are

January 11, 2025

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Comm. On Energy & Natural Resources
304 Senate Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Comm. On Energy & Natural Resources
304 Senate Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: SRST Support for Governor Doug Burgum to serve as Secretary of the Dept. of Interior

Dear Senators Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

On behalf of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, I write to support Governor Doug Burgum's nomination to serve as Secretary of the Department of Interior. As Tribal Chairwoman, I personally know Governor Burgum's tireless efforts to work with our Tribal Nation, and the four other Tribal Nations of North Dakota. He consistently demonstrated his commitment to the nation-to-nation dialogue, hosting an annual summit to celebrate and share our accomplishments and opportunities. I appreciated his willingness to consult on the issues important to our communities such as health care, mental health, substance misuse, law enforcement, education, and economic development.

Governor Burgum understands the Native American dynamic which, if you're non-native can be difficult to maneuver, but he does it well. He understands the importance of honoring traditional values and culture, promoting family first, remembering who we are and where we came from, the struggles we endure and community wellness.

As a gentleman with an open mind and an open heart, and a man of strong spiritual character, I trust that Doug Burgum will serve Indian Country well, as a nominee for the position of Secretary with his vast knowledge and support of Tribal Sovereignty. It takes a special person, like Doug Burgum, to understand and implement the balance necessary to maintain healthy relationships with Tribes across our great Nation.

Thank you. *Wopila Tanka.*

Sincerely,

Janet Alkire, Chairwoman
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe