WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

DAVID IGE	DOUG BURGUM	JAMES D. OGSBURY
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII	GOVERNOR OF NORTH DAKOTA	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CHAIR	VICE CHAIR	

December 19, 2018

The Honorable Donald Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500
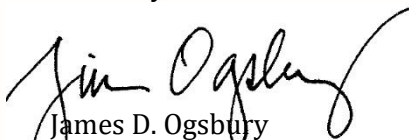
Dear President Trump:

On behalf of the bipartisan Western Governors' Association (WGA), I encourage your nomination of a sitting western Governor to the critical cabinet post of Secretary of the Interior.

At the dawn of your administration, Western Governors contacted you to express the rationale for selecting a Governor to head the Department of the Interior. A copy of that correspondence is attached.

The Governors' reasoning remains salient, and this vacancy offers the opportunity to nominate a candidate with executive experience, extensive knowledge of Departmental operations, and a deep appreciation for the challenges faced jointly by the Department and western states. The appointment of a western Governor would be a credit to your Administration.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me if you have any questions or require further information. In the meantime, with warm regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

Attachment

Steve Bullock
Governor of Montana
Chair

Dennis Daugaard
Governor of South Dakota
Vice Chair

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November 22, 2016

Honorable Donald Trump
President-elect of the United States
Trump/Pence Transition Office
1717 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President-elect Trump:

On behalf of the bipartisan Western Governors' Association (WGA), congratulations on your election to the presidency of the United States. We look forward to working with you on an ongoing and cooperative basis.

WGA represents the Governors of 19 Western states and 3 U.S.-flag islands. The association is an instrument of the Governors for bipartisan policy development, information exchange and collective action on issues of critical importance to the Western United States. We recognize that the installation of a new Administration presents a historic opportunity to reset and redesign the state-federal relationship, and we hope that you will look to WGA as both a resource and a partner in that endeavor.

In the meantime, we are taking this opportunity to urge your appointment of a sitting Western Governor to the critical cabinet post of Interior Secretary. Department of the Interior operations have disproportionate impacts on member states of the Western Governors' Association. The jurisdictional area of the Bureau of Reclamation, for example, is entirely within the WGA footprint. The Bureau of Land Management administers 264 million acres of public lands, the vast majority of which are located in the Western United States. The policy issues confronted by the Department – from endangered species to water scarcity to tribal matters – have profound and unique impacts on the American West.

No one is in a better position to lead the Department of the Interior than the sitting Governor of a Western state. Western Governors work closely with departmental bureaus on a daily basis and have a deep appreciation for the challenges faced jointly by Interior and the Western states. Western Governors acquit themselves with honor, dignity and integrity as the chief executives of their respective states. We have no doubt that such an appointment would visit great credit upon you and your Administration.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this recommendation. Congratulations again on your election and best wishes for every possible success as you assume the enormous responsibilities of the presidency.

Respectfully,

Steve Bullock   Dennis Daugaard
Governor of Montana   Governor of South Dakota
Chair, WGA   Vice Chair, WGA

cc: Vice President-elect Mike Pence