

May 6, 2021

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman
Senate Energy & Natural Resources
Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Senate Energy & Natural Resources
Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chairman
Senate Environment & Public Works
Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Environment & Public Works
Committee
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin, Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Barrasso & Ranking Member Capito:

On behalf of millions of hunters, anglers, outdoor enthusiasts, and land stewards from all fifty states, we write to express our strong support for the confirmation of Ms. Shannon Estenoz to serve as the next Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks at the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI).

Ms. Estenoz, a 5th generation Floridian, has dedicated her career to public service starting from her early tenure with the conservation non-profit community and culminating in her work to advance conservation of America's Everglades. Ms. Estenoz has been appointed by three Florida Governors, spanning both political parties, to the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District. During the Obama Administration, she served as the Department of the Interior's Director of Everglades Restoration Initiatives. In this role, she worked closely with both DOI agencies over which she will have jurisdiction in the Assistant Secretary role: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service. She played a key leadership role in the conceptualization, initiation and completion of the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP). She also led the effort to secure a \$90 million partnership with the State of Florida for the construction of a 2.6-mile bridge on Tamiami Trail (US Highway 41) to allow water to flow into Everglades National Park.

As Executive Director of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, Ms. Estenoz convened, moderated, and led numerous interagency negotiations over issues including water quality, listed species, invasive species, operations, policy, project budgets and project planning. And until she was named Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Ms. Estenoz served as the Vice President of Policy & Public Affairs/Chief Operating Officer of the Everglades Foundation where she has worked closely with the Florida recreational fishing and conservation community to continue to advance restoration of the Everglades system.

Overall, Ms. Estenoz has a strong history of working cooperatively with federal, state, private and non-governmental organizations to achieve conservation outcomes. While the challenges facing the management of our shared natural resources are complex, we believe Ms. Estenoz has the experience and understanding to make decisions that reflect the ecological and economic importance of our wildlife, parks, and outdoor spaces for current and future generations. We urge your committees to approve the nomination of Ms. Shannon Estenoz so the Senate can act quickly to confirm her as the next Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association
Angler Action Foundation
Archery Trade Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Captains for Clean Water
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports
Delta Waterfowl
Ducks Unlimited
Izaak Walton League of America
National Deer Association
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
North American Grouse Partnership
Orion: The Hunter's Institute
Outdoor Industry Association
The Conservation Fund
The Trust for Public Land
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Wild Sheep Foundation
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute

cc: Members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee