

The Honorable Deb Haaland  
United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 00240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

The New Jersey Committee on Native American Ministries(CoNAM) would like to take this moment to congratulate you on the announcement of your newest role in our government. This role will mean so much to Native American communities. There will now be someone at the Cabinet level who understands the needs if the indigenous people of the United States of America. Most people do not correlate a Native American population to New Jersey, but the ancestors of today's Lenni Lenape people have walked the woods, fished the water ways, and raised their families here as long as 10,000 years ago.

Today a CoNAM is found in each of the Conferences of the United Methodist Church. The CoNAM is tasked to be aware of the issues, needs, gifts, and talents of the Native people, Tribes, organizations, and communities within their Conference. In this way, the Committee will advocate for Native peoples and communities as well as the Conference and the General Church.

How does this relate to the Department of the Interior? In New Jersey, CoNAM is the organization who worked with the greater church to arrange for land to be returned to the Lenni Lenape Tribe when a Methodist church in the Cumberland and Salem County areas was closed due to lack of sustainable membership. This is part of the Journey of Hope protocol authored by Bishop John Schol and his cabinet to address racial injustices over the years. CoNAM and the Tribe could not ask for a more appropriate Secretary of the Interior who will be able to assist in the expansion of Native American lands in New Jersey.

We extend our gratitude for what you will mean to the Tribal people in the Unites States of America. We look forward to partnering with you in the future.

Cynthia Mosley  
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