



SCIENCE ■ STEWARDSHIP ■ SERVICE

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chair, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso,

We are writing to thank you for holding a hearing to consider the nomination of Dr. David Applegate to be Director of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and encourage you to advance this nomination in a timely manner to allow USGS to maintain their support of and research in their critical mission areas.

As one of our Nation's key science agencies, the USGS plays a vital role in understanding and documenting mineral and energy resources that underpin economic growth; researching and monitoring potential natural hazards that threaten U.S. and international security; informing communities about the impacts of a changing climate; determining and assessing water quality and availability; and assessing risk of COVID-19 spread to new species. In addition to supporting the science activities and decisions of the Department of the Interior and other federal agencies, USGS research is used by communities across the nation to make informed decisions in land-use planning, emergency response, natural resource management, engineering, and education.

Dr. Applegate would bring sterling scientific credentials and experience to the post of USGS, an agency he has served since 2004. Applegate has an undergraduate degree in geology from Yale University and a doctorate in geology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has been honored as a fellow by the Geological Society of America and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. His experience working within scientific societies, Congress, and the executive branch make him exceptionally qualified for the position.

GSA stands ready to work with you to ensure that the USGS has leadership in place to effectively and efficiently conduct its work to protect the health and well-being of communities across the nation.

Sincerely,

Vicki S. McConnell
Executive Director

Cc: File

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