

350 Action 2018 Candidate Questionnaire

Deb Haaland

About You

Your Name: Deb Haaland

What office are you running for, and as which party?: Congress: NM-1, Democrat

Policy Positions

Do you support a swift transition to 100% renewable energy, like wind and solar?

Yes

Please say more about what you'd do if elected to bring about a 100% renewable energy economy that works for all of us.

"I have been an Organizer and Community Activist for decades, particularly with actions to protect our environment and prevent further climate change, and move to 100% renewable energy. I believe that addressing climate change requires building a movement, and for me that has started with organizing in my community.

In Congress, I will work hard to come up with new and innovative ways to transition to 100% clean energy and rebuild communities worst impacted by the fossil fuel industry along the way. In my community, solar energy is the future -- I want to bring tens of thousands of solar jobs to New Mexico. Drought and increasingly severe and life threatening heat waves will also be the future if we don't act fast.

Fighting for 100% clean energy isn't enough, we need champions in Congress who will call out the fossil fuel industry and the harms it has done to our communities -- especially poor communities and communities of color. The fossil fuel industry has made billions by wrecking our climate, poisoning our neighborhoods, and trampling over sovereign Native Nations. I will use any platform I get to fight back, speak out, and vote against any and all new fossil fuel infrastructure.

On the nuts and bolts: I will push for more affordability and tax incentives for solar installation and upkeep, as well as for electric vehicle purchase or federal trade-in and tax incentives. We must repeal the Trump tariff on solar panels produced outside of the US - read my op-ed in Newsweek on this issue here : <http://www.newsweek.com/trumps-solar-panel-tariff-will-cost-23000-us-jobs-796387>.

I will also strongly support investments into renewable energy infrastructure, including long overdue upgrades to make our passenger and freight train system high speed and electric. I support new solar standards for homes being built in the US, including charging stations and panels on every new home. I will support efforts to force the Trump Administration to re-enter the Paris Climate Agreement.

I will stand up to utility companies that seek to put profits over people.

A schedule and funding plan must be created to decommission all fossil fuel power plants and I will fight to be at any table where those discussions are taking place.

If elected, I will also push the Sustainable Energy and Environment Caucus (SEEC), to a more aggressive approach to fighting climate change: including 100% clean energy and no new fossil fuel infrastructure. As a freshman, I will be seeking to serve on the House Natural Resources Committee if elected, where I can be on the frontlines of these critical issues."

Do you support a moratorium on all new fossil fuel infrastructure, like pipelines and fracked gas power plants?

Yes

Please say more about what you'd do if elected to stop the expansion of the fossil fuel industry and keep fossil fuels in the ground.

First and most importantly, as a Native American woman, I will lead and join all efforts to keep fossil fuels in the ground. I will fight in Congress, but I will also bring my unique voice to the frontlines of rallies, marches, and actions. I will put my name on marker bills that chart a visionary path forward on climate and clean energy, and innovative paths forward to hold the fossil fuel industry accountable for their reckless damage.

It should be mandatory to bring tribal leaders to the table whenever discussing any fossil fuel infrastructure projects. Congress needs to create stricter environmental review processes and divest all public portfolios from fossil fuel investments. I will vote to end all fossil fuel subsidies by the US Government, and move any such subsidies over to the renewable energy sector.

I will create opportunities to highlight the work of important organizations in my district and nationally that are doing the work to stop the expansion of fossil fuels - their stories need to be told - whether on the House floor, to the media, or back home in the district.

In Congress, I will introduce legislation aimed will be to incentivizing tribal and rural landholders to aggressively shift away from oil, gas, and coal, and toward a green energy economy by providing access to capital and other resources to produce solar, wind, and geothermal energy. We should be incentivizing all forms of green energy development and production, and we should be working with Tribes and local communities to identify and develop sustainable economic opportunities; that way we are fighting climate change while also ensuring families and communities can survive and thrive.

I will fight for real job retraining programs and job creation for the many communities across the country that have relied on fossil fuels to keep their community's economies alive. We can't forget these communities as we dramatically change the path towards 100% renewable energies.

We must keep all fossil fuels in the ground, we must ensure all infrastructure investments are part of a larger effort to reach 100% clean energy.

Do you support a just and equitable transition to a fossil free economy that works for all of us?

Yes

Please say more about what you'd do if elected to ensure a just and equitable transition. We're interested in climate policies that seek to remedy existing environmental and social injustices.

The transition to 100% clean energy has to include efforts to rebuild communities hit first and worst by fossil fuels and climate-change-fueled extreme weather. A just transition means helping communities who have paid the price for our fossil fuel era reap the benefits of the clean energy era. Solar and wind jobs with living wages and good benefits, access to clean public transit, access to healthcare for people dealing with the repercussions of pollution.

For Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and rural communities on the verge of losing our lands -- this also means access to funds to relocate and start anew and a faster transition that gives communities their best possible shot to stay home.

As stated above on the last question, we must do everything in our power to provide a smooth transition for working families of those in the fossil fuel industry into the renewable energy industry. Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and rural communities -- communities hit hardest by climate change, environmental degradation, and poverty -- are in the unfair position of having to choose between their livelihoods and their land. We must give them opportunity to move from dirty energy to renewable energy.

We need to work with organized Labor and the clean energy sector to ensure clean jobs are good jobs with living wages, benefits, fair scheduling, and paid family and sick leave. A just transition also means federally funded job training for former fossil fuel industry employees, so that they can find work that doesn't put their health at risk.

Native Americans, communities of color, and all underserved communities have long been exposed to environmental disasters and pollution, and I wholeheartedly support reparations to those communities, and countries, who the fossil fuel industry has harmed. Additionally, the US must give humanitarian aid to countries most affected by climate change. Last, any trade agreements, in addition to strong protections for workers and the environment, must include climate change language.

Running a Progressive Campaign

Do you pledge not to accept any contributions from the fossil fuel industry, as defined by the "No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge"?

Yes

Do you support fossil fuel divestment campaigns in your state and around the world?

Yes

Have you participated in any major climate mobilizations, marches, direct actions, or sit-ins in the past year?

On the question above, I would also point out: I worked successfully to divest our Democratic Party from Wells Fargo when it was exposed that they financially benefited from the Dakota Access Pipeline. We should divest from every corporation making a profit by destroying Tribal lands or wrecking our climate.

For this question: I have attended multiple local 350 meetings, I attended the march for science in 2017, and I attended the People's Climate March in Albuquerque in 2017.

What's your relationship with leading climate activists in your district?

I have been involved with 350.org for at least 5 years. I worked hand in hand with Tom Solomon of the NM 350 chapter, we worked together to pass a resolution that will increase New Mexico's Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) up to 80% by 2040, requiring companies like PNM to produce more electricity every year from renewable sources like wind and solar at Ten Southern Pueblo Governor's Council. I've shown up to rallies, protests, marches and have spoken when asked; I am also working to help Frack Off Greater Chaco in their fight to keep Chaco Canyon from having leases sold and fracked - the organization recently credited me with making their issue a national one; I also have shown up locally to fight fracking efforts in Bernalillo and Sandoval Counties; I attend Sierra Club meetings/presentations. I attended the community event Climate State of the Union here in Albuquerque. I have been talking with tribal leaders about organizing to fight this fracking as well.

Please share an example of how you like to talk about the intersection of climate and other social justice issues on the campaign trail.

The fight for Native American rights is also a fight for climate justice. I've learned this over and over again supporting tribal nations in their fights against fracking, pipelines, and billionaire oil companies.

For too long, we have allowed the fossil fuel industry to make billions by wrecking our climate. The impact of their actions has fallen hard on Indigenous peoples, rural communities, and black and Latino communities who are facing extreme pollution near the tar sands, flooding in Latino-dominated states like Florida and Texas, and extreme drought across the Southwest where many of my Native American brothers and sisters live. Racial justice is environmental justice is economic justice is climate justice. None can be accomplished alone.

Whether it's the wild rice lakes on the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota, water at Standing Rock or in Flint, Michigan, by and large, communities of color and low income communities are most impacted by environmental harms. Coal plants, fracking operations and nuclear waste facilities are built in areas where developers expect little political pushback, and the carrot of jobs is usually dangled to sweeten the deal. This level of manipulation -- making underserved and underrepresented Americans choose between clean water or putting food on the table -- is injustice at work.

Would you be interested in doing a Facebook live event with 350 Action staff and local leaders?

Yes

On September 9th, 2018, the climate movement will come together in California and around the world for a massive day of climate action. Are you willing to mark this date on your calendar and potentially join us at an event?

Yes

Are you willing to join us at climate movement actions to speak out against the fossil fuel industry and/or the Trump Administration once you are in office?

Yes

Demographics and Identity

Race: Native American

Gender: Female

If you'd like, tell us more about your identity in your own words:

I expect to be an activist Member of Congress. You will be able to count on not only my vote, but my leadership on these critical issues. I want to be in Congress calling out the Trump Administration and the Fossil Fuel industry, fighting for 100% clean energy every day.

I am an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Laguna. I grew up in a military family; my father was a 30-year combat Marine who was awarded the Silver Star Medal during Vietnam, and my mother is a Navy veteran who went on to work 25 years in Indian education. My family moved throughout the country during my father's military service; as a result, I attended 13 different public schools before graduating from high school in Albuquerque. I know the sacrifices made by military families all too well — because I have lived them.

I am a single mom who volunteered cleaning toilets and sweeping floors at my daughter's preschool in order to afford tuition. Like so many New Mexicans, I had to rely on food stamps at times as a single parent. I have been a small-business owner and know those challenges firsthand. I have lived paycheck-to-paycheck and struggled to put myself through college and law school — but I did it through hard work and determination.

Like so many New Mexicans, both my daughter and I are still working to pay off our loans. Unlike all of my opponents, I am not in a position to write big personal checks to my campaign.

For many decades I have worked to contain my own personal carbon footprint. I take many steps in my daily life to walk the talk. By remaining true to good environmental practices I can reduce my own carbon footprint significantly. Calculating all I do in the furtherance of our environment, I save more than 10,000 pounds of carbon from going into the atmosphere every year. But that just isn't enough. We need system change to truly make an impact, and in Congress I'll fight to ensure we make the big changes needed to address climate change.

Additional Follow-Up

Our goal is to endorse “climate progressives” who are strong on climate and share our progressive vision on other issues too. Please list other progressive endorsements your campaign has received so far.

I have received the endorsement of the National Organization for Women PAC, the Congressional Black Caucus PAC, Bill McKibben; 13 Members of Congress including Reps. Earl Blumenauer, Pramila Jayapal, Gwen Moore, Betty McCollum, Ro Khanna, Barbara Lee; and 55 Indian Tribes across the Country, including Former Chairman of Standing Rock, Dave Archambault, II. I also have the endorsement of the following progressive champions in New Mexico: former US Senator Fred Harris, Lt Governor Diane Denish, Alan Webber, State Representatives Debbie Armstrong, Patricia Roybal Caballero, Javier Martinez, Georgene Louis. I was the only candidate in this race invited to participate in the recent advanced PCCC Candidate’s Training where I spoke out against Trump’s misguided and shameful infrastructure plan, including on the issue of keeping fossil fuels in the ground. "