

John Hoeven



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 3, 2017

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HOEVEN SWORN IN FOR SECOND TERM AS U.S. SENATOR FOR NORTH DAKOTA

Senator Committed to Getting Back to Basics, Promoting ND Priorities, Growing the Economy

WASHINGTON – Senator John Hoeven today was sworn into office by Vice President Joseph Biden for his second term in the United States Senate. Hoeven took the oath of office before his wife Mikey, son Jack and daughter-in-law Kelly.

In addition, the Senate Republican Conference today reported that the senator has been named to five key Senate committees: Appropriations; Energy and Natural Resources; Agriculture; Homeland Security and Indian Affairs.

“It has been a tremendous honor to serve on behalf of North Dakota in the U.S. Senate for the past six years, and I am grateful that the people of our state have given me the opportunity to continue this work,” Hoeven said. “I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to support the priorities that have made our state and our nation strong. These include focusing on fundamentals like reducing the regulatory burden, reforming the tax code, and finding savings to reduce the national debt, as well as supporting our farmers and ranchers, empowering our nation’s energy development and supporting our military and veterans.”

“Further, my committee assignments will provide an opportunity to work on policies that support these efforts, like writing a new farm bill, building strong support for energy development and working to keep our borders secure and our country safe.”

Photo of Senator John Hoeven, wife Mikey, son Jack and daughter-in-law Kelly.

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HOEVEN MEETS WITH NEW HEAD OF BIA BRUCE LOUDERMILK

WASHINGTON – Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.) today met with the new Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Bruce Loudermilk to discuss issues for the upcoming Congress and administration. The senator underscored a range of priorities under the Bureau's purview, including the importance of economic development on Tribal lands to create jobs and raise the standard of living.

The senator also pressed the new director to provide local and state law enforcement authorities with resources to address protesters who remain at a camp near the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) site in North Dakota.

The area where the protesters are camping is low-lying land managed by the Army Corps of Engineers adjacent to the Cannonball River, which this year holds the potential for spring flooding. The senator pressed Director Loudermilk to engage with state and local authorities and provide resources to help ensure the protesters leave the Corps land.

"We look forward to working with Director Loudermilk and would like to start with a request to work with state and local authorities to help disband campsites located on Corps land," said Hoeven, who was named chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee this week. "We also want to work with him on the committee to address priorities like promoting job creation, economic growth, health care and housing in Indian country."

Director Loudermilk, a long-time official at the BIA, has served in a number of senior positions. He was named director in November. He is an enrolled member of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes Reservation.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

For Immediate Release:

January 5, 2017

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HOEVEN, UDALL ELECTED CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN OF SENATE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senators John Hoeven (R-N.D.) and Tom Udall (D-N.M.) today issued the following statement after being elected Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

"I am honored to serve as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and look forward to working with Vice Chairman Udall and members of the Committee to pass legislation that helps improve the lives of people across Indian country. In our roles, we will address the issues of jobs creation, natural resource management and improving Indian health care, education, public safety and housing," **said Hoeven**. "We will also make it a priority to promote economic growth in Indian country. Jobs and economic growth are the priorities that will help tribal families, communities, and businesses succeed."

"I am enormously honored to become the Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, a role that will strengthen my ability to fight for and defend the sovereignty of New Mexico's 23 Tribes and all Native American communities," **said Udall**. "With the Indian Affairs Committee's proud tradition of bipartisan cooperation in mind, I am very much looking forward to working with Chairman Hoeven and all our Committee members to help secure progress for Indian Country. Throughout my career, I have been committed to working alongside Tribes to uphold our trust responsibility. The U.S. Senate has a duty to support Tribal communities in their work to build sustainable economies and good schools, provide quality health care, maintain access to clean air and water, and protect the deep Native American connection to culture and tradition. Native Americans have faced, and continue to face, great challenges and injustices – and while we have made progress, it is abundantly clear that we have much work to do to improve government-to-government consultation with Tribes and to ensure environmental justice. I am proud of my long record as a strong defender of Native American rights, and this new position will enable me to work more closely with Tribal communities in New Mexico and across our nation."

"I want to congratulate Chairman Hoeven on his election," said **former committee Chairman John Barrasso**. "I look forward to working closely with him, and with all the committee members, to pass legislation that will empower tribal communities and will strengthen the government-to-government relationship the United States shares with tribes."

"I look forward to working with Chairman Hoeven and Vice-Chairman Udall to ensure that our nation's trust and treaty responsibilities are upheld across all of Indian Country," said **former committee Vice Chairman Jon Tester**. "I am confident that during this session of Congress the Senate Indian Affairs Committee will continue its long history of working across the aisle to promote tribal sovereignty and strengthen economic opportunities, health care and education for all Native American and Alaska Native families."

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*** Click here for [video](#). Click here for [audio](#). ***

**HOEVEN WORKING TO SECURE MORE BIA LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS TO ADDRESS PIPELINE PROTESTS**
**Senator Meets with Interior Nominee, New BIA Director to Get Support for State
and Local Authorities Dealing with Illegal Dakota Access Pipeline Protest Site**

WASHINGTON – Senator John Hoeven (R-N.D.) last week met with Interior Department nominee Congressman Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) and the new Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Bruce Loudermilk. In separate meetings, the senator urged them to provide state and local law enforcement authorities with additional BIA officers to address protesters who remain on Army Corps of Engineers land near the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) site.

The senator briefed both Zinke and Loudermilk on the challenges posed to state and local law enforcement by protesters illegally occupying Corps land. There have been instances of trespassing, vandalism, theft and fire on privately owned ranchland. Roads have been blocked or closed either by protest activity or law enforcement's response to it.

Also the area where the protesters are situated is low-lying land adjacent to the Cannonball River. With unusually heavy snowpack this year, there will be spring flooding, which would put people in the area at risk.

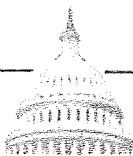
"We want more BIA law enforcement officers working with state and local law enforcement to move protesters off the Corps land in an orderly way and keep people who live and work in the area safe," Hoeven said. "In fact, Standing Rock Sioux Chairman Dave Archambault has also called on the protesters to leave. So I have made that request to the new BIA Director, Bruce Loudermilk, to provide that law enforcement support. I'm also working forward with the Trump administration. I recently met with the Department of Interior nominee, Ryan Zinke, and made that same request."

Congressman Zinke currently represents Montana at large in the House of Representatives. He serves on the House Committee on Natural Resources. In 2014, Zinke became the first Navy SEAL elected to the House. He serves on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Director Loudermilk is a long-time official at the BIA, which is a part of the Department of Interior, and has served in a number of senior positions. He was named director in November. He is a citizen of the Fort Peck Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes Reservation.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Don Canton or Kami Capener
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HOEVEN UNVEILS LEGISLATION TO COMBAT OPIOID EPIDEMIC Measure Closes Loophole Allowing Synthetic Drug Variations to Be Sold When Labeled “Not For Human Consumption”

WASHINGTON – Senator John Hoeven today unveiled legislation he authored to keep harmful and addictive synthetic drugs from being sold in the United States. The Illegal Synthetic Drug Safety Act of 2017, which Hoeven has reintroduced with Senator Chris Coons (D-Del.), has been endorsed by the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association. The measure closes a loophole in current law that enables companies to circumvent the law and sell synthetic variations of drugs, like the powerful drug fentanyl, by labeling the products as “not for human consumption.”

“Communities and families across the nation, and in my home state of North Dakota, are being hit hard by the growing drug epidemic,” said Hoeven. “This legislation is part of our efforts to combat this problem and keep harmful opioids and synthetic drugs off the street. The bill closes a loophole and makes synthetic variations of harmful drugs, like fentanyl, illegal.”

Laboratories, many of which are found in China, are altering the molecular structure of fentanyl and other controlled drugs to make substances that are technically different, but with the same dangerous risks as the original drug. These chemically altered substances are known as analogues. Under the current law, the Analogue Enforcement Act, analogues of controlled substances that are “intended for human consumption” are to be considered Schedule I substances. Companies that produce analogue substances are skirting the law by labeling their products as “not for human consumption,” even though the drugs are purchased for that exact purpose.

For example, fentanyl is a synthetic opioid drug that is medically used as a pain killer. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) estimates that it is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. While fentanyl is a controlled substance, laboratories are altering its molecular structure to make variations of the drug that are technically different, but just as dangerous. Companies are then able to sell the variations, or analogues, under a “not for human consumption” label.

The Illegal Synthetic Drug Safety Act of 2017 closes that loophole and removes the “intended for human consumption” language from the Analogue Enforcement Act, which classifies analogues of controlled substances as Schedule I substances. Chemical substances used for legitimate commercial purposes and regulated under the Toxic Substances Control Act are exempted from the classification.

In addition, Hoeven supported the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, which Congress passed last July. The bipartisan legislation will help combat the prescription opioid and heroin epidemic plaguing communities across the nation by expanding prevention efforts, supporting law enforcement, improving treatment of overdoses and enhancing access to treatment for drug addiction.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Hoeven also works to support local law enforcement’s efforts to protect communities and prevent crime. The senator secured funding in the Senate’s Fiscal Year 2017 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill for programs that help reduce recidivism and enhance coordination among various levels of law enforcement.

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