

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S. 230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell,

We write to express our strong support for the nomination of David Longly Bernhardt as United States Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. Bernhardt's qualifications for this position are undeniable, and his accomplishments as Deputy Secretary and Acting Secretary speak for themselves. After years of ill-conceived federal regulations and the gross mismanagement of the nation's natural resources, our constituents anxiously await the nomination of a leader who truly understands their unique needs and will implement sensible, forward-looking policies to improve the management of our natural resources. This, in particular, is why we ask for you to quickly move to confirm Mr. Bernhardt as the next Secretary of the Interior.

As Deputy Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Bernhardt has been directly involved with regulatory policy concerning the environment, energy, natural resources, and wildlife. Under his leadership, the Department has prioritized expediting and streamlining the permitting process for infrastructure and energy projects across the nation, increasing energy production, creating jobs, and stimulating the economy, all while protecting our natural resources. Notably, the Department of Interior finalized the Hunt-Fish Rule, removing approximately 1,400 regulations and simplifying 710 others to align more closely with state regulations and reducing the regulatory burden on the public.

Mr. Bernhardt worked in a bipartisan manner to reform management plans for the Greater Sage Grouse, which has the unanimous support of governors from Wyoming, Nevada, California, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, and Colorado. Additionally, the Department has treated 2,463,262 acres of public lands to help prevent wildfires and protect communities across the West.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Bernhardt had a distinguished career within the Department of the Interior, having served as Deputy Solicitor, Deputy Chief of Staff, Counselor to the Secretary of the Interior, and Director of the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs. After a unanimous confirmation by the Senate in 2006, Mr. Bernhardt was appointed Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, serving as Chief Legal Counsel and directing efforts

in compliance, regulation, and energy development. Additionally, Mr. Bernhardt was appointed by President Bush in 2007 to chair the International Boundary Commission, where he led the United States contingent in maintaining the Canadian border.

We believe David Bernhardt will make an excellent Secretary of the Interior. As evidenced by his previous experience within the Department, Mr. Bernhardt exemplifies the type of leader we need to improve the government's stewardship of our natural resources. Mr. Bernhardt received bipartisan support from the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and we ask for immediate consideration of his confirmation on the Senate floor.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. We look forward to swift action in the Senate to protect America's natural resources and public lands.

Sincerely,

Devin Nunes

Ken Calvert

Paul Cook

Ken Hironaka

Paul Cook

Kelly Ayotte

Steve Holcomb

Rep. J. Amodeo

Rep. J. Amodeo

Annex Amata C. Padavano

Dan Auerbach

Ron Estes

Mike

Les Fulcher

Dusty Johnson

Andy Biggs

Bob Boggs

Dag Loffe

~~Jim~~

Tom Emmer

Peg Cheney

Pete Star

Ken Calvert

J. N. Cas

Steve Scalise
