



SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE

May 17, 2017

U.S. Senator Cory Gardner
354 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for David Bernhardt to be Deputy Secretary for the Department of Interior

Dear Senator Gardner,

On behalf of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, I am writing to express our support for David Bernhardt's nomination to serve as Deputy Secretary for the Department of Interior. Our Tribe advocates for policies that promote Indian energy development, tribal sovereignty, Indian self-determination, and a positive government-to-government relationship between Indian tribes and the United States. As you know, Indian country faces many challenges, including reconsolidating fractionated lands, tribal economic development, and providing quality programs and services to tribal members.

After decades of disciplined governance and energy resource development, our Tribe has built an economy that is balanced, mature, and diversified. It is no exaggeration to say that our economy is the engine of growth and household incomes in southwest Colorado. As a result, our Tribe has long been involved in helping the Congress and federal agencies shape a rational, pro-development energy policy.

As a native of Colorado, Mr. Bernhardt is aware of our Tribe's unique history, particularly the role that meaningful self-determination coupled with prudent energy development has played in achieving economic prosperity for our Tribe, our tribal members, and surrounding communities. Given Mr. Bernhardt's familiarity with our Tribe's story and his stellar qualifications, we believe that Mr. Bernhardt is well-positioned to help lead the Department of the Interior in a manner that respects the federal trust responsibility to Indian tribes and empowers tribal communities to exercise greater self-determination. We urge swift approval of Mr. Bernhardt's nomination by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Thank you for your leadership on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Clement J. Frost
Chairman



May 15, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510
VIA FAX 202-224-6163

Dear Chairman Murkowski:

The Outdoor Recreation Industry Roundtable (ORIR) supports the President’s nomination of David Longly Bernhardt to serve as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, an appointment of great importance to the outdoor recreation industry. As the steward of more than 25% of the nation’s land-base – including prime recreation sites on public lands and waters drawing more than a billion visits annually – the Department is of vital importance to our industry and its customers.

Many of us have known David Bernhardt for years through his prior public service at the Department. We have found him responsive, intelligent and committed to cooperation among government agencies at all levels and the recreation community’s private sector. He understands that we manufacture, sell and service equipment ranging from RVs to boats, skis to fishing equipment and much more that make being outdoors fun. He understands that our industry has designed, built and now operates ski areas and lodging, campgrounds and marinas on public lands, and provides outfitter and guide services – again, helping Americans enjoy and benefit from the shared legacy of our national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges, vast BLM-managed assets, the waters overseen by the Bureau of Reclamation and more.

David grew up with an appreciation of the outdoors in and around Rifle, Colorado, and those experiences have shaped his priorities and outlook. We worked with him in his role as Interior’s Director of Congressional Affairs on numerous issues, including the crafting of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, and later during his service as the department’s Deputy Chief of Staff and Solicitor.

The Department needs leadership from those aware of the complexities of balancing recreation, conservation and commodity purposes – and a person who understands that there are usually solutions to even very difficult matters if time is invested in understanding the full range of alternatives and then gaining broad buy-in by the range of interests involved in Interior topics.

Those leading the Department of the Interior will play a central role in determining whether the outdoor recreation industry, now estimated to generate \$887 billion in annual spending

Letter to the Hon. Lisa Murkowski
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and supporting some 7.6 million jobs, will continue to grow and generate economic and health benefits and support long term community sustainability in areas with major public lands. We are convinced that Mr. Bernhardt will respond to these challenges and assist Secretary Zinke in very positive ways. We respectfully request that this letter and its message of support be included in the record of the May 18, 2017, confirmation hearing by your committee on this nomination.

The Outdoor Recreation Industry Roundtable is comprised of America's leading outdoor recreation trade associations, representing thousands of U.S. businesses that produce and provide equipment, gear, apparel, vehicles and services for some 150 million Americans who enjoy our nation's public lands, waterways, and byways. Spanning outdoor recreational activities such as boating, fishing, hunting, camping, snow sports and powersports, and including recreational vehicles, outdoor equipment and clothing used to pursue these activities, the Outdoor Recreation Industry Roundtable is dedicated to growing diverse outdoor participation, expanding recreational access for Americans and promoting conservation. More information on ORIR is attached.

We look forward to working with Mr. Bernhardt and the team at the Department of Interior to advance the outdoor recreation sector, grow jobs in the U.S., and ensure robust public access and treasured experiences in the outdoors that also boost our nation's physical and mental well-being.

Sincerely,

American Recreation Coalition
Archery Trade Association
BoatU.S.
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
Marine Retailers Association of America
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds (ARVC)
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Park Hospitality Association
National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc.
Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association
Recreation Vehicle Industry Association
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America

cc: Members, Energy and Natural Resources Committee, United States Senate



May 23, 2017

The Honorable Cory Gardner
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
(via email)

Dear Senator Gardner:

On behalf of the Colorado River Water Conservation District, I write to endorse and urge your support for confirmation of David Bernhardt as Deputy Secretary for the Department of the Interior.

The Colorado River District has enjoyed working with David in a variety of capacities in the past. We have worked with David Bernhardt on both legislative and regulatory issues. He has always been an advocate for western water and a problem-solver.

Mr. Bernhardt is highly qualified for this position. He spent his youth in Rifle, Colorado and learned water policy and water law from such exemplary mentors as Russell George and Scott McInnis. More recently, his service as the Solicitor for the Department of the Interior and his other D.C. experience will serve him and Interior extremely well in this new position. As a longtime advocate for western water, coupled with his understanding of both the legislative and regulatory process, make him highly qualified to serve in this position.

The Department and the nation would be well served to have someone with David's qualifications and personal integrity in this position. The Colorado River District encourages your support and that of the US Senate for the prompt confirmation of David Bernhardt as Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "R. Eric Kuhn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

R. Eric Kuhn, General Manager



Colorado Water Congress

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THE LEADING VOICE OF COLORADO'S WATER COMMUNITY

May 15, 2017

The Honorable Cory Gardner
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gardner,

On behalf of the Colorado Water Congress, we are writing to express our support for David Bernhardt to serve as Deputy Secretary for the Department of the Interior.

The Colorado Water Congress is the principal voice of Colorado's water community, and our Federal Affairs Committee fully supports Mr. Bernhardt's nomination. We have worked with David on issues affecting our water supplies; storage; delivery and conservation, as well as some regulatory issues, while he worked on Capitol Hill and the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Bernhardt is highly qualified to serve in this position. From his roots in Western Colorado to his prior service as the Solicitor for the Department of the Interior and in many other capacities, David has been a strong advocate for western water. Further, his thorough understanding of both the legislative process and natural resources law make him highly qualified to serve in this position.

David has been a public servant committed to the meaning of the term. He believes in and practices straight talk; is inclusive in consideration of issues brought before; explores all available options on the path to finding workable solutions in the real world where government actions impact real people. He has earned the trust of many because of his ability to communicate effectively and decide fairly.

The Department would be well served to have someone with David's qualifications and personal integrity in this position. Colorado Water Congress encourages the United States Senate to promptly confirm David Bernhardt's nomination so that the important work of the Department of the Interior can move forward.

Sincerely,

Doug Kemper
Executive Director

Andy Colosimo
Federal Affairs Committee Chair

Chris Treese
Federal Affairs Committee Vice Chair

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chairman
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

May 11, 2017

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell,

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) supports the nomination of David Bernhardt to become the Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior.

The Department of the Interior has 10 major bureaus, 70,000 employees and manages more than 500 million acres of public land. The mission of the Department of Interior, to protect America's great outdoors and natural resources is of absolutely critical importance to our nation's \$887 billion outdoor recreation economy, which includes America's hunters and anglers.

The importance of the Department of Interior, the chief steward of our national public lands, requires a Deputy Secretary who understands how the department functions and understands the complexities associated with balancing the resource needs of our country, both now, and most importantly, for future generations of Americans. David Bernhardt will provide much needed departmental experience to the Interior leadership team at a time when important natural resource decisions with wide impact are being considered.

The Senate does have a responsibility to examine the potential conflicts of interest brought on by Mr. Bernhardt's private legal career, where he represented various parties with financial stakes in Department of the Interior decisions, and the TRCP supports this examination. In our experience, we have found Mr. Bernhardt to be fair, curious, thoughtful and committed to ensuring the Department of the Interior lives up to its responsibility to conserve the nation's lands and resources for future generations.

Mr. Bernhardt also boasts a first-hand appreciation for public lands, a critical component of his qualifications to help lead the Department. Growing up in Rifle, Colorado, Mr. Bernhardt enjoyed hunting and fishing on national public lands. These same lands were also heavily used for oil and gas production, giving him an early perspective about the necessity of balancing the many uses of our national landscapes. Mr. Bernhardt also understands the close partnership that must exist between the federal government and the states and our neighbors to the north and south. He served on the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries for the Commonwealth of Virginia and was the United States Commissioner to the International Boundary Commission.

In summary, we believe that David Bernhardt has the experience, temperament and judgment to make an excellent Deputy Secretary for the Department of the Interior, and we support his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Whit Fosburgh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping tail.

Whit Fosburgh
President and CEO
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership