



The Mountain Pact Deeply Troubled by Nomination of David Bernhardt as Interior Secretary

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Anna Peterson, Executive Director for The Mountain Pact, said:

“We are disheartened to learn that Acting Secretary of the Interior, David Bernhardt, will be the official nominee for the position. We have been deeply troubled by Bernhardt’s and the Trump Administration’s actions and directions on public lands, climate, and many conservation issues.

As a former coal lobbyist, Bernhardt has continuously put the interests of oil and gas companies first, minimizing all other uses of public lands that support our mountain communities. Bernhardt’s numerous conflicts of interest will mean he manages public lands for the benefit of oil, gas, and coal companies rather than the American public. Bernhardt showed his true colors when, during the 35-day government shutdown, the Department of the Interior recalled furloughed employees to *only* accelerate oil and gas lease approvals, not care for our public lands.

In order to be confirmed as Secretary of Interior, Bernhardt must commit to a complete change in direction on public lands. He must listen to the voices from mountain communities that rely on healthy, well-managed public lands for economic stability, outdoor recreation, and cultural vitality issues. They are not only part of our heritage and our lifestyle, but a crucial part of our outdoor recreation economy. Without a commitment to protect our public lands and wildlife, fight climate change and stand up for our communities, David Bernhardt should not be confirmed as Secretary of Interior.”

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More about The Mountain Pact

Founded in 2014, [The Mountain Pact](http://themountainpact.org) is an organization that works with nearly fifty mountain communities in all eleven states across the American West to empower them to build resilience in the face of economic and environmental stresses through a shared voice on federal policy related to climate, public lands, and outdoor recreation.