



## **Mountain Community Elected Official Reacts to Acting Secretary Bernhardt's Nomination Hearing**

**Contact:** Anna Peterson, 612-735-2402, [anna@themountainpact.org](mailto:anna@themountainpact.org)

Durango, Colorado (March 28, 2019) – Nominated in early March to replace Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, David Bernhardt testified in front of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee today. Bernhardt has been the Department of Interior's (DOI) Acting Secretary since Ryan Zinke resigned amidst ethics scandals but has since been faced with several ethics scandals of his own. The former lobbyist has been questioned regarding his stance on [offshore oil and gas](#) drilling and [endangered species protections reductions](#) that would directly benefit a former client. The Colorado native has been working hard at the DOI to pursue the Trump administration's 'energy dominance' agenda even before Ryan Zinke's resignation.

Corinne Platt, Mayor of Ophir, Colorado said, "Bernhardt's policies favoring energy interests are in complete opposition to the Western values we live by. I and so many other concerned Coloradans call on Mr. Bernhardt to modify his skewed policies of supporting energy interests over science-backed conservation values and act in the public's interest, not his career-long ties to the oil and gas industry."

###

### ***More about The Mountain Pact***

*[The Mountain Pact](#) is an organization that works with over 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.*