Congressional Committees Grill Sec. Interior Bernhardt on Conservation Cuts in Trump Administration’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget

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Durango, Colorado (May 22, 2019) – Today the Senate Interior Appropriations Committee held a hearing with Interior Secretary David Bernhardt to review the administration’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget for his department. This follows the House Committee on Natural Resources hearing held last week.

Below is a statement from The Mountain Pact Executive Director, Anna Peterson:

"Former oil and gas lobbyist, now Secretary of the Interior, David Bernhardt and the Trump administration’s 2020 Fiscal Year budget slashes America’s best conservation program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and guts environmental and wildlife protections. This administration continues to sell off America’s public lands, waters, and wildlife by pushing for two more years of ‘energy dominance.’ Essential LWCF grant programs for many mountain communities and economies continue to be under threat and in limbo.

“As Congress moves through the budget process, we urge members to continue their bipartisan support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) by fulling funding the program they came together to reauthorize in March. Senators and Representatives who claim to support LWCF must prove their commitment to the critical program by ensuring full and permanent funding at its authorized level of $900 million."

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More about The Mountain Pact

Founded in 2014, 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.