



Colorado Farm Bureau

9177 E Mineral Circle
Centennial, CO 80112

The Honorable Senator Cory Gardner
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

March 11, 2019

Dear Senator Gardner,

On behalf of the nearly 25,000 members of the Colorado Farm Bureau, I strongly support the appointment of Interim Secretary, David Bernhardt to the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI). As Deputy, he has served the DOI well by expanding multiple uses to managed lands, modernizing the application of the ESA, streamlining NEPA and implementing outcome-based grazing.

We believe Bernhardt has a strong and accomplished history in various roles at the DOI. As a Colorado native, it is encouraging to see another statesman selected to serve in this administration. It should be incumbent upon the Colorado delegation to support a nominee with his expertise and talent that hails from home.

As current acting Secretary, Bernhardt has served in numerous leadership capacities with many different titles. Most importantly, Bernhardt understands the importance of timeliness when it comes to providing solutions and creative approaches in managing our national lands. The DOI needs to have leadership in place to face forthcoming challenges, such as catastrophic wildfires, more people entering into the world with fewer returning to the farms and more land coming under the management of federal agencies.

In his position leading DOI he will be vitally important to animal health, sustainability and prolonged uses of our natural resources.

DOI and the many agencies under it have vacant leadership roles that must be filled in order to coordinate rapid responses and management of lands and resources. Current needs include, animals grazing, fire mitigation, mineral exploration and much much more. We have waited far too long for critical appointments to be confirmed and we have reached a critical point where it is necessary that roles being filled in agencies so that decisions can be made.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the Senate to immediately confirm Acting Secretary Bernhardt as the new Secretary of the DOI. Please work with leadership to speed his confirmation through the Senate. We need him on the job at DOI, today. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you'd like to discuss my thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald J. Shawcroft". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Don Shawcroft
President