



February 10, 2019

Senator 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 strong support for David Bernhardt to serve as Secretary of 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 Mr. Bernhardt 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, Mr. Bernhardt 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.

Mr. Bernhardt 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 him, and 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 to this position. The 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,

Douglas Kemper
Executive Director

Andy Colosimo
Federal Affairs Committee Chair

Chris Treese
Federal Affairs Committee Vice Chair