

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Global Strategy Group
DATE: March 20, 2019
RE: **NEW POLL: Arizonans concerned about Bernhardt, McSally potentially voting to confirm him**

Heading into the Senate confirmation process for acting Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, Arizonans disapprove of the DOI's agenda and have concerns about confirming Bernhardt to lead the agency. Arizonans also have mixed feelings about Martha McSally, and messages from opponents of Bernhardt's confirmation move Arizonans to oppose both Bernhardt's confirmation and McSally's re-election should she vote to confirm him. Such a vote by McSally would exacerbate her existing vulnerabilities, including constituents' beliefs that she is too quick to side with President Trump and weak on environmental issues.

Key findings from Global Strategy Group's recent poll of 604 likely 2020 voters in Arizona are as follows:

- **Arizonans oppose the Department of the Interior's agenda under David Bernhardt.** Arizonans widely disapprove of several major actions that the DOI has taken or considered since Bernhardt was appointed to its senior leadership, including:
 - Shrinking the size of national monuments that are protected from industrial oil and gas development and mining (68% disapprove, including 52% who strongly disapprove)
 - Proposing changes to the Endangered Species Act that would weaken protections for threatened species (66% disapprove, 54% strongly)
 - Expediting approval and permitting of oil and gas drilling in previously protected wildlife habitat (64% disapprove, 49% strongly)
- **Arizonans have clear concerns about confirming Bernhardt, which deepen the more they hear.** Arizonans are split on Bernhardt's confirmation after first hearing that Trump has nominated him to be Secretary of the Interior (41% support/41% oppose), with intensity on the side of his opponents (34% "strongly" oppose, compared to 25% who strongly support his confirmation). After hearing a series of messages from opponents of Bernhardt's confirmation, a clear majority statewide oppose confirming him (31% support/54% oppose, including 45% who strongly oppose his confirmation).
- **Arizonans are deeply troubled by DOI actions that threaten protected land in the state, and by Bernhardt's lobbyist past.** Overwhelming majorities have doubts about confirming Bernhardt after hearing messages focused on how:
 - The government has been considering lifting protections on the land around the Grand Canyon and opening the land up for uranium mining (82% doubts, including 64% with major doubts)
 - The DOI has been reviewing national monuments and considering shrinking them or eliminating their monument status, including the Ironwood Forest (79% doubts, 57% major doubts)
 - Bernhardt was a lobbyist for Rosemont while it was seeking approval for a controversial copper mining project in Southern Arizona (76% doubts, 57% major doubts)
 - Bernhardt spent years as a lobbyist representing big oil and gas companies (77% doubts, 55% major doubts)

- **McSally's constituents are on the fence about her.** Arizonans have mixed views of McSally (46% favorable/41% unfavorable), and are split on whether to keep her in office (43%) or replace her as their U.S. Senator (46%). The majority of Arizonans view McSally as “too close to President Trump” (53% say this describes her well), while just 30% believe she is doing a good job on the environment.
- **McSally risks losing her constituents' support by voting to confirm Bernhardt.** After hearing from opponents of Bernhardt's confirmation, majorities of Arizonans say they would feel negatively about McSally (34% favorable/53% unfavorable) and would support replacing her in office (39% keep/51% replace) if she votes to confirm Bernhardt.

ABOUT THIS POLL: Global Strategy Group conducted a survey of 604 likely 2020 general election voters in Arizona from March 13 to 17, 2019. The results of this survey have a margin of error of +/-4.0%. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic and demographic divisions of the expected electorate are properly represented based on historical turnout.