

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Global Strategy Group
DATE: March 20, 2019
RE: **NEW POLL: Coloradans troubled by Bernhardt's record, want Gardner to oppose confirmation**

Coloradans strongly disapprove of the Department of the Interior's agenda under David Bernhardt, and oppose confirming him as Interior Secretary. Senator Cory Gardner accordingly risks losing support from his constituents by voting to confirm Bernhardt, at a time when Coloradans are already concerned about Gardner's positions on environmental issues.

Key findings from Global Strategy Group's recent poll of 602 likely 2020 voters in Colorado are as follows:

- **Coloradans widely disapprove of the Department of the Interior's agenda under David Bernhardt.** Strong majorities disapprove of major actions that the DOI has taken or considered since Bernhardt was appointed to its senior leadership, including:
 - Proposing changes to the Endangered Species Act that would weaken protections for threatened species (71% disapprove, including 59% who disapprove strongly)
 - Shrinking the size of national monuments that are protected from industrial oil and gas development and mining (69% disapprove, 58% strongly)
 - Expediting approval and permitting of oil and gas drilling in previously protected wildlife habitat (67% disapprove, 55% strongly)
- **Coloradans oppose Bernhardt's confirmation by a wide margin.** Coloradans are 15 points more likely to oppose Bernhardt's confirmation (49%) than to support it (34%) upon first hearing that President Trump has nominated him. After hearing a series of messages against Bernhardt's confirmation, Coloradans oppose Bernhardt's confirmation by nearly two-to-one (29% support/57% oppose).
- **Bernhardt's record on Colorado public lands issues and history of lobbying raise alarms for Coloradans.** Overwhelming majorities of Coloradans have doubts about confirming Bernhardt after hearing messages focused on how:
 - The DOI is opening up thousands of acres of protected Colorado land in critical wildlife habitat to industrial oil, gas, and coal companies (75% doubts, including 60% who have major doubts)
 - Bernhardt spent years as a lobbyist representing big oil and gas companies (74% doubts, 55% major doubts)
 - Bernhardt's former lobbying firm funded campaigns for politicians, and Cory Gardner was their number one recipient of campaign cash (71% doubts, 54% major doubts)
 - Bernhardt publicly supported the recent federal government shutdown that caused Colorado's parks to close or go understaffed (69% doubts, 57% major doubts)

- **Coloradans have concerns about Gardner, especially when it comes to the environment.** Gardner's constituents have mixed opinions of him (35% favorable/43% unfavorable), and a majority would prefer to replace him in office rather than re-elect him (30% re-elect/55% replace). In particular, Coloradans are not convinced that Gardner is "independent" (28% say this describes Gardner well), is doing a good job on the environment (34%), or "has the courage to do what's right" (37%).
- **Gardner risks losing constituents' support by voting to confirm Bernhardt.** After hearing from opponents of Bernhardt's confirmation, wide majorities of Coloradans say they would feel unfavorably about Gardner (28% favorable/60% unfavorable) and would support replacing him in office (26% re-elect/62% replace) if he votes to confirm Bernhardt.

ABOUT THIS POLL: Global Strategy Group conducted a survey of 602 likely 2020 general election voters in Colorado 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.