



The Mountain Pact

Mountain Communities Get a Voice in D.C.

In mid-September, The Mountain Pact's Executive Director Anna Peterson traveled to Washington, D.C. with five local elected officials from mountain communities in the West. Anna was joined by Councilmember Sonja Macys of Steamboat Springs, CO; Mayor Pro Tem Ward Hauenstein of Aspen, CO; Mayor Sarah Smith-Hymes of Avon, CO; Mayor Pro Tem Hunter Mortensen of Frisco, CO; and Councilmember Devin Middlebrook of South Lake Tahoe, CA. These



local elected officials shared hometown examples of the need for solid conservation practices and climate action. They participated in meetings with members of the Western Congressional delegation including Representative Tipton, Representative Neguse, Senator Gardner, as well as staff from the offices of Senators Daines, Bennet, McSally, Murray, Feinstein, and Tester; and Representatives McClintock, DeGette, O'Halleran, Perlmutter, and Pelosi.

The participants had a busy two days of back to back meetings. In between meetings, they connected with other climate and public lands activists Greta Thunberg and Protect Our Winters athletes, as well as the President of the Navajo Nation.

The Messages We Brought to Washington, D.C.

- **Thank you for your work to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), but now it is time to permanently and fully fund it.** The bipartisan LWCF has been one of our country's most successful conservation programs by drawing funds from offshore oil and gas royalties, not taxpayers, to protect and increase access to public lands and waters.
- **Ensure public lands are protected.** The Trump administration's goal to greatly expand leasing and drilling on federal public lands by rolling back regulations on energy production is tilted wholly in the direction of the oil and gas industry. This approach does not include uses for communities that depend on healthy nearby public lands, for outdoor recreation, watershed protection, and tourism.
- **Ensure taxpayers are getting their fair share of revenue from energy development.** The Trump administration and some members of Congress have made it clear their top priority for America's public lands is extractive activities and energy development. Parcels for oil and gas drilling are sold at bargain-basement prices, locking up huge areas of public lands that could be better used for hunting, fishing, hiking, climbing, biking, or wildlife viewing.
- **Hold Secretary Bernhardt accountable so that his conflicts of**

interest do not irrevocably harm public lands and western mountain communities. As a former oil industry lobbyist, Secretary of Interior David Bernhardt has numerous conflicts of interest that skew his decision making in favor of industry.

A huge **Thank You** to all of the DC Fly-in participants for traveling to D.C. and advocating for policies that will support the economies, culture, public health, and vitality of our beautiful western communities.



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