

Support for the Nomination of Shannon Estenoz as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior

Wednesday, July 10th, 2024

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chair
Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Committee
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Senate Energy and Natural Resources
Committee
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Manchin, Ranking Member Barrasso, and members of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

On behalf of millions of members and supporters from across the country, including hunters, anglers, outdoor enthusiasts, and land stewards from all fifty states, the undersigned organizations urge you to support Ms. Shannon Estenoz's nomination to serve as Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). We urge your committee to support and advance her nomination expeditiously for full Senate floor consideration.

Ms. Estenoz's conservation expertise and experience through her public service career, including at the current Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, demonstrate a strong commitment to stakeholder engagement and local and state collaboration. Ms. Estenoz served as a political appointee to three Florida Governors from both parties, and to the Governing Board of The South Florida Water Management District and served as Director of Everglades Restoration Initiatives and Executive Director of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force under the Obama Administration. She understands the importance of meaningful engagement with Tribal Nations, communities, elected officials, corporate partners, and other stakeholders to advance solutions.

During her earlier tenure at DOI, she played an instrumental role in securing a \$90 million partnership with the state of Florida and led the effort to rebuild a portion of the Tamiami Trail Bridge to allow water to flow into Everglades National Park. She also launched a dynamic program alongside private landowners, the Department of Defense, and the National Park Service to preserve lands and waters around military installations. This innovative interagency effort leveraged a \$80 million investment from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to sustain native wildlife and habitats, and guard against climate impacts for at-risk species.

For 30 years, Ms. Estenoz's profound knowledge of wildlife and parks management and her civil engineering background has helped communities and agencies across the country work together to protect rivers, landscapes, and wildlife while maintaining critical energy and infrastructure needs. Ms. Estenoz's balanced and bipartisan approach to conservation, stakeholder engagement, and leadership makes her an excellent choice to lead DOI's conservation and energy efforts.

Our collective organizations strongly urge your committee to support and advance Ms. Shannon Estenoz's nomination this session so the full Senate can act quickly and confirm her as the next Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Rivers