

**From:** "'Interior, Secretary' via DOI\_All\_Employees" <[doi\\_all\\_employees@doi.gov](mailto:doi_all_employees@doi.gov)>

**Date:** January 18, 2019 at 3:20:25 PM PST

**To:** undisclosed-recipients;;

**Subject:** Message from Acting Secretary Bernhardt

**Reply-To:** "Interior, Secretary" <[secretary\\_of\\_the\\_interior@ios.doi.gov](mailto:secretary_of_the_interior@ios.doi.gov)>



## U.S. Department of the Interior

Interior Team,

During a lapse in appropriations, I have found myself in the unusual position of assuming the role of Acting Secretary at a moment when some of you are reporting to work and many of you are not.

I truly appreciate how an event like this lapse can cause apprehension and uncertainty for many. Over two decades ago, I was a Congressional staffer during a similar situation. At that time, I was extremely concerned that the potential delay in receiving my paycheck would eliminate my ability to pay my rent. I know the consternation that caused, and because of that experience, I want this situation to be resolved expeditiously.

I have served within the Department doing various jobs for nearly a decade. I know the Department and its bureaus have some of the most dedicated and passionate employees in Government. Even during the lapse period, I have witnessed an inspiring degree of professionalism by several of you. Each of you is essential to our mission and valued by your leaders, coworkers, and the public you serve. Please stay in touch with each other and share information and solutions.

We are all looking forward to getting back to normal operations.

Respectfully,

Sincerely,  
Acting Secretary David Bernhardt

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