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GEST Applauds Zinke's Confirmation as U.S. Interior Secretary

Gulf Economic Survival Team (GEST) Executive Director Lori LeBlanc today issued the following statement on the U.S. Senate's confirmation of Congressman Ryan Zinke as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior:

"GEST congratulates Congressman Zinke on his confirmation as Interior Secretary, with support of both Democrats and Republicans. He is an excellent choice to lead the Interior Department into the future and to lead our nation toward energy security and economic growth through enhanced offshore production in the Gulf of Mexico.

"As a representative of the great state of Montana and a member of the House Natural Resources Committee, Congressman Zinke demonstrated his appreciation of the value of American-made oil and gas to our national economy and energy security. In fact, in 2015, he participated in a tour of Port Fourchon – the energy hub of America's Gulf – hosted by Congressman Steve Scalise that highlighted the importance of our oil and gas industry.

"The working men and women of our energy industry are pleased to hear Interior Secretary Zinke endorse expanded oil and natural gas drilling during his confirmation hearing. Like GEST, he is also committed to common-sense regulations that promote safety and environmental protection with transparency and predictability to ensure that America's offshore oil and gas industry will continue investing in the Gulf and producing jobs and energy that fuel America.

"We look forward to working with U.S. Secretary of Interior Zinke to reshape our nation's economic future with a realistic American energy plan driven by robust domestic oil and gas production, particularly offshore in America's Gulf."

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GEST is a Louisiana-based, grassroots advocacy organization advocating for safe and robust offshore oil and gas development in the Gulf of Mexico. Visit our web site at www.GulfEconomicSurvival.org, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gulfeconomicsurvivalteam and on Twitter @GESTNews.