Biography of Ryan Brunner
President, National Association of State Trust Lands
South Dakota Commissioner of School and Public Lands
Presented to the House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands
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Mr. Ryan Brunner is the Commissioner of School and Public Lands for the state of South Dakota and currently serves as the President of the National Association of State Trust Lands (NASTL) formerly known as the Western States Land Commissioners Association. NASTL is a non-profit consortium of administrators of state-owned trust lands totaling more than 500 million acres of public and school trust lands and minerals in 20 western states. NASTL members are the second largest group of land managers in the nation, second only to the federal government. NASTL services and activities assist states in managing assets that help fund public education. Since 1949 the association has strived to improve the management of these lands on behalf of state beneficiaries. Currently, the combined trusts amount to over $140 billion dollars which generates over three billion dollars for public schools annually.

Commissioner Brunner serves as President of NASTL for the 2019-2020 year after serving as Vice-President the previous two years. He has served as the land commissioner in South Dakota since 2014 and was previously the deputy commissioner. The SD School and Public Lands Office manages over 760,000 acres of surface land and 5.2 million mineral acres to provide funding for K-12 schools and universities in the state. In addition, the South Dakota school land trust fund is worth over $300 million. He also has a degree in agricultural economics from South Dakota State University.