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HAUSTVEIT, LACERTE, AND PEARCE NOMINATIONS

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

TO

CONSIDER THE NOMINATIONS OF KYLE HAUSTVEIT TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF ENERGY, DAVID LACERTE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (REAPPOINTMENT), AND STEVAN PEARCE TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

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HAUSTVEIT, LACERTE, AND PEARCE NOMINATIONS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:39 a.m. in Room SD–366, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. John Barrasso, presiding.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN BARRASSO, U.S. SENATOR FROM WYOMING

Senator BARRASSO. The Committee will come to order. Senator Lee will be here momentarily. Good morning. Welcome to all of you.

Today, we will hear from three exceptional Americans nominated for senior positions in the administration, one for each of the three agencies under this Committee's jurisdiction. The nominees are the Assistant Secretary of Energy, Kyle Haustveit, to be the Under Secretary of Energy for the Department of Energy; Commissioner David LaCerte, renominated to another term as Commissioner for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and Congressman Steve Pearce, to be the Director of the Bureau of Land Management at the Department of the Interior. I want to thank President Trump for sending all of these qualified nominees.

We do have Senator Lummis here, who is going to make an introductory statement for former Congressman Steve Pearce, and we are so delighted to have you. I know you are on a tight schedule, so we will, in the interest of time, turn directly to you, Senator Lummis.

Senator KING. Will we have a chance for questions, Mr. Chairman?

Senator BARRASSO. Out of order.

[Laughter.]

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS, U.S. SENATOR FROM WYOMING

Senator LUMMIS. Well, thank you kindly to my dear colleague from Wyoming, Senator John Barrasso, and thank you Committee for allowing me to introduce to you my friend and former colleague, Steve Pearce, as nominee for Director of the Bureau of Land Management. And I will tell you, absolutely, without a doubt, there is just no better person for this job than Steve Pearce.

Steve and I served together in the U.S. House of Representatives. We worked side by side on natural resource issues that are vital to our western states. And I got to see firsthand how he operates. He fights for his constituents. He listens to his constituents. He is one of those rare Republicans who served in a bright blue state, and the way he got elected was by constantly going and listening to his constituents, not just showing up during election years, but showing up every weekend for family events in the communities that he represented. And it was such a unique way that he had secret sauce in his district that it was even featured in the Wall Street Journal, how he got elected. He is very attuned to the people he represents. He fights for his constituents. When New Mexicans needed people in their corner, he showed up every time.

So, after decades of serving the people of New Mexico, Steve came away from this town with an understanding that a lot of people lack, and that's how the decisions that are made here work on the ground, how they land in ranching communities, energy producing counties, tribal nations, and rural economies. He doesn't see the Bureau of Land Management as a line item in the federal budget, he sees it as boots on the ground in communities that depend on how their land is managed. You know, over time, it's getting to be that fewer and fewer people even know what BLM stands for. One night, I was watching TV, and they said, okay, our next guest is the head of the BLM. And I thought, oh my gosh, we are making news. Little did I know that the next person to be on the screen was the head of Black Lives Matter. And I never thought about them as acronyms that represented such different things to such a different audience. And that's why it's so important to have someone at the helm at the BLM who really understands the boots on the ground, the difference between BLM land and National Park Service land and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service land. Very different purposes for our wilderness areas than our BLM lands, very different applications of things like FLPMA, that passed in the mid-70s. And right now, you are facing a nominee who understands those differences and is truly capable of implementing the law the way it was designed.

And while Steve Pearce is a fighter, I can also tell you he is genuinely kind and thoughtful. We used to sit next to each other on the floor of the House. We both have a love of the Taos Society of Artists. And one day, I looked over and he was flipping through the artist that he and I both love and share and collect, and it became one of those wonderful relationships you have with another member, who has an interest outside of the immediacy of what we deal with. It was such fun because so many of the things depicted by those artists are the land, the scenery, the sky, the water, the air that is subsumed on our BLM lands. So, we have shared many memories in our time in the House.

I love his dry sense of humor. It gives a lighter air to the contention of our jobs. And when things got tough, he'd keep showing up. He doesn't turn away from those uncomfortable dialogues. He keeps listening. And he found ways to work across the aisle to get things done. That is exactly the kind of leadership BLM needs. Steve holds a core belief that I share—the people who live and work on our western lands know better than the people here in

Washington what they need and how we can be stewards of those lands.

He believes strongly in respecting states and listening to local expertise. He knows that Washington should partner with—not dictate to—western communities. He knows responsible economic development can transform communities and lift families while preserving these magnificent landscapes that we represent. You know, there is just no one better to head the Bureau of Land Management. Steve Pearce has the experience, the vision, the tenacity, and the heart. This is a man with the heart to do this job well. So, I strongly support his nomination and I urge my colleagues to confirm him.

Mr. Chairman, thank you so much.

The CHAIRMAN [presiding]. Thank you, Senator Lummis.

We are now going to turn to Senator Hoeven, and after that Senator Heinrich and I will give our respective opening statements, and we will proceed from there.

Senator Hoeven.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN HOEVEN, U.S. SENATOR FROM NORTH DAKOTA

Senator HOEVEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thanks to both you and Ranking Member Heinrich, I appreciate you holding the hearing today, and I appreciate this opportunity to welcome Kyle Haustveit back in front of this Committee. And it wasn't that long ago you were here, and you are back, for very good reasons, with, I think, just a great decision by President Trump to nominate you for this new role at the Department of Energy.

Kyle has served at the DOE with distinction. He was the Assistant Secretary for Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy and doing a great job in that role. And we have worked closely with him, so I know that firsthand. His background in energy is diverse, whether it's fossil fuels, but all types of energy, it really is impressive. And now, he is nominated for the Under Secretary for Energy slot, the third-ranking position in the Department of Energy, and does a great job in that role, along with Chris Wright, who also, I know personally and has done a fantastic job and James Danly, who we all know from his time at the FERC. So, just an outstanding team leading the Department of Energy.

Also, welcome and congratulations to Brea, his wife, and their four children, I think—I see three. I am missing one, but oh, yes, my gosh, she is a young lady. I missed that. Are you Nevaeh? Am I saying that right?

NEVAEH: Nevaeh.

Senator HOEVEN. Nevaeh. Well, welcome to you. I bet you're a good babysitter for the other three. I'm just guessing. Yeah. Harper, Noah, and Hudson. So, welcome to all you guys.

Hudson, what happened to your wrist? Huh? You playing some sports? Oh, okay. I know how that goes.

Brea is from Kenmare, so that's not too far from where I grew up northwest of Minot there. So, you have a beautiful family. And I guess you better—Kyle, you've got to be on your game, man, because it sounds like the parents are watching remotely—your parents, Tom and Donna, and grandparents, Dewey and Phyllis. So,

you are going to really have to be on your game today, man. But again, congratulations to them as well. Born in Fargo—we love that. And raised in Tioga. So, again, another person from Northwest North Dakota, like myself and your wife, and grew up living the energy economy in the Williston Basin. So, I mean, it's in his blood. A third-generation energy worker, petroleum engineer by training, but innovator and a problem solver. Co-invented a patent in hydraulic fracturing, a technique that's now used across multiple shale basins, and technology that, as both the Chairman and Ranking Member know, of that incredible unlocking of energy from shale across the nation, both oil and natural gas.

And we have been working on what we call in North Dakota "Crack the Code 2.0." So Crack the Code 1.0 was when we figured out how to produce oil and gas out of shale economically. Obviously, we knew we could do it from a technological standpoint for years, but the key was making it commercially viable. And we worked on that, actually back during my days as Governor in that 2000-timeframe. And of course, with directional drilling and hydraulic fracturing now, you know, we have unlocked the shale plays, not only in the Bakken, but in Texas, the Permian Basin, and the Eagle Ford and in New Mexico in a big way, and of course, the Marcellus up in this part of the country. So, it has absolutely been a revolution in terms of energy for the country. Now, Crack the Code 2.0 is using enhanced oil recovery to double that production. And we are going to do it, even, Cynthia, in places like Wyoming, if you can imagine that. It's a big deal.

Senator LUMMIS. It's a big deal.

Senator HOEVEN. And Kyle understands this at the level that is going to enable us to crack that code a second time, and it has huge ramifications for our country. And that's why it's so important he has been nominated for this position of leadership at the Department of Energy. So, with that, again, thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member for the opportunity to introduce Kyle Haustveit.

The CHAIRMAN. Thanks so much, Senator Hoeven, and thank you Senator Lummis, for joining us. We will go ahead and have the witnesses make their way to the table now, but before we start with you, go ahead and have a seat now. Senator Heinrich and I will now give our respective opening statements.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MIKE LEE, U.S. SENATOR FROM UTAH

The CHAIRMAN. Today's nominees have been nominated to positions that have a lot of challenges before them, and they will face monumental tasks and stakes that go beyond the responsibilities and the duties of just any one agency. They go to a basic question: Can the United States govern its resources in a way that is capable of meeting the moment? Electricity demand is rising at a pace that we haven't seen in decades. Data centers, advanced computing, and the return of domestic manufacturing are pushing our grid to its limits. Wide stretches of the American West are under federal management, and decisions made in Washington can make or break the communities that surround those lands.

Our foreign adversaries recognize the implications that are at play. They are expanding their production and strengthening their control over mineral supply chains. In past years, we watched the Biden regime partner with the progressive environmental lobby to willfully ignore some of those realities and instead layer on rules holding American-made energy hostage for unrealistic, unachievable environmental objectives. Domestic energy production was blocked at every turn. We became dangerously reliant on foreign supply chains from adversarial countries that are not, to say the least, all that interested in seeing America succeed. Rather than treating American energy and mineral resources as strategic assets, they instead treated them as liabilities to be phased out and to be kept in the ground in perpetuity. We saw a governing philosophy that ignored the people most directly affected by their decisions. Local officials, county commissioners, tribal leaders, and small businesses showed up, offered their expertise, and then watched painfully as the final outcome bore little resemblance to what they put on the record. That approach deepened distrust and deeply damaged the relationship between Washington and communities throughout America that were forced to live with consequences made hundreds, sometimes thousands of miles away.

Each of you, if confirmed for the position for which you have been nominated, each of you will have tasks before you that involve reversing that course. At the Bureau of Land Management, that means administering some 245 million acres of public land and 700 million acres of mineral estate under multiple-use and sustained-yield mandates that have been outlined over the years by law, by Congress. And at the Department of Energy, that means overseeing the office's responsibility for electricity, nuclear energy, hydrocarbons, geothermal, cybersecurity, the strategic petroleum reserve, and the emergency grid authorities Congress has provided under the Federal Power Act. And at FERC, it means exercising regulatory judgment over interstate transmission, wholesale markets, natural gas infrastructure, and the orders that shape investment across our entire economy.

What matters now is how that authority will be exercised. Will America's resources be developed here at home or will we be forced to rely on foreign competitors? Will communities have a genuine seat at the table or will they simply be notified after the fact that their concerns have been disregarded? I look forward to hearing from each of you on how you will intend to carry out the duties and the responsibilities of the respective offices to which you have been nominated. Thank you.

And the Chair now recognizes Senator Heinrich, the Ranking Member of this Committee.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MARTIN HEINRICH, U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW MEXICO

Senator HEINRICH. Thank you, Chairman.

The Committee has previously considered nominations for two of the nominees before us this morning. The Senate confirmed Mr. Haustveit's nomination to be the Assistant Secretary of Energy for Fossil Energy last September and Mr. LaCerte's nomination to serve the final year remaining on a vacant seat on the Federal En-

ergy Regulatory Commission. But the Committee still has an obligation to examine Mr. Haustveit's qualifications for the broader responsibilities that he will have, if confirmed, to be the Under Secretary of Energy, and we must consider whether Mr. LaCerte has earned an additional five-year term on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Our third nominee poses a somewhat greater challenge for us. Congressman Pearce, who I have long-known and often worked with, has been nominated to be the Director of the Bureau of Land Management. If confirmed, he will become the steward of more than 244 million surface acres of public land and another 700 million acres of subsurface minerals. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the law that established the Bureau of Land Management, prescribes how the Director is to perform his important duties. It says that he is to manage the lands and resources under his jurisdiction as public lands. They belong to the public, not to any special interest, but to the American people as a whole, and not to our generation alone, but to future generations as well. The Public Lands Charter calls for them to be managed for fish and wildlife as well as for energy and mineral production, for recreation as well as resource development. Their value is to be measured not in economic returns or unit output alone, but also in the intangibles of scenic, scientific, historic, and archeological values.

A friend of mine likes to describe public lands as the anvil on which our collective western identity was forged. I think that kind of sums it up. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act says that our public lands are to be retained in federal ownership and managed to best meet the present and future needs of the American people, and where appropriate, preserved and protected in their natural condition without permanent impairment. The Act tells us that the Director must be someone who will carry out these functions and perform these duties in accordance with these principles. Congressman Pearce has had a long career in public life, and he is well-known to many of us. He has served seven terms in the House of Representatives and three terms as the head of the Republican Party in my home State of New Mexico. As a public official, he has cast many votes and made many public statements. In some of the positions that he has taken, he called for the selling off of public lands. That makes it challenging for me to view his tenure—his potential tenure at the BLM—as one of stewardship.

And so, my questions today will largely reflect not just those reservations, but the conversations that we had in my office yesterday, Congressman. And it is, of course, the President's prerogative to nominate who he wants, but it is also the responsibility of those of us on this Committee to assess Mr. Pearce's nomination and to recommend whether or not the Senate should confirm him. For much of our nation's history, our predecessor committee proudly bore the title "The Public Lands Committee." Oversight of the public lands was our original purpose, and it remains one of our foremost responsibilities. To discharge this trust, we depend heavily on the dedicated public servants at the Bureau of Land Management, who devote their careers and their lives to the care of our public lands, and we depend on the Director of the Bureau to carry out the functions of his office in accordance with our laws and with

FLPMA. Our hearing today is Congressman Pearce's opportunity to make his case for his nomination and to share his vision of how he would manage the public lands, if confirmed, and to allay our concerns. I look forward to hearing from him.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Senator Heinrich.

Okay, our first witness today will be the honorable Kyle Haustveit of North Dakota, nominated to be the Under Secretary of Energy. That's the third highest ranking officer in the Department of Energy, with broad jurisdiction over many offices and programs at the Department of Energy. He currently serves as the Assistant Secretary of Energy for Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy, a position to which the Senate confirmed him last year. And in that position, he currently already plays a leading role in investing in resource development and implementation of fossil-fuel-derived projects and strengthening American energy dominance in critical mineral supply. Prior to his current service, Mr. Haustveit worked on energy issues in the private sector, and he's a graduate of Montana Technical University and the University of Oklahoma.

Our second witness today is the honorable David LaCerte of Louisiana, renominated to his current position as Commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. FERC, of course, is charged with developing electricity and natural gas at reasonable prices and has jurisdiction over interstate electricity transmission and wholesale electricity sales, as well as interstate transportation and sales of natural gas, in addition to regulating hydroelectric facilities. Mr. LaCerte is also no stranger to this Committee, as he, too, was confirmed to his current post by this Committee and by the Senate just a few months ago. He's got a distinguished career at both the federal and state levels in government in addition to his deployment as a United States Marine in Afghanistan. Mr. LaCerte is a lawyer. He served as a lawyer, among other things, at Baker Botts and graduated from Nicholls State University and Louisiana State University.

Our final witness today is, of course, the honorable Stevan Pearce of New Mexico, nominated to be the Director of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the Department of the Interior. Congressman Pearce has a long record of public service, representing New Mexico's Second Congressional District in the House of Representatives for 14 years. Prior to that, he served in the New Mexico State Legislature. He also served as a pilot in the Air Force during Vietnam, where he was decorated for his actions during combat missions. He is a graduate of New Mexico State University and Eastern New Mexico University. His service as an elected official from a western state provides him with the necessary experience and expertise to run BLM.

Before the witnesses begin their testimony, I will swear them in. So, if each of you will please stand and raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to give to the Committee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

[Witnesses sworn.]

The CHAIRMAN. Let the record reflect that each witness responded in the affirmative.

You may be seated.

Also, it is the Committee's practice to ask the following three questions of all nominees who appear before us for confirmation.

First, will you be available to appear before this committee and other congressional committees to represent the positions of your agency and respond to issues of concern to Congress?

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. Yes.

Mr. LACERTE. Yes.

Mr. PEARCE. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. All three witnesses responded in the affirmative.

Second, are you aware of any personal holdings, investments, or interests that could constitute a conflict of interest, or create the appearance of such a conflict of interest, should you be confirmed and assume the office to which you have been nominated?

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. No.

Mr. LACERTE. No.

Mr. PEARCE. No.

The CHAIRMAN. All three witnesses responded in the negative.

And third, are you involved in or do you have any assets in a blind trust?

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. No.

Mr. LACERTE. No.

Mr. PEARCE. No.

The CHAIRMAN. All three witnesses responded in the negative.

With that, I will now invite each of the nominees to offer their opening statements and to introduce their guests with them, if they choose to do so. We will begin with Secretary Haustveit.

STATEMENT OF KYLE HAUSTVEIT, NOMINATED TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF ENERGY

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am deeply honored to be considered for the role of Under Secretary of Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy. I want to express my sincere gratitude to President Trump for my nomination and to Energy Secretary Wright for his support. Thank you to Senator Hoeven for the kind introduction. Thank you to my family and friends here with me today and those watching online. Here with me is my high school sweetheart, best friend, and wife, Brea, our four children, Nevaeh, Harper, Noah, and Hudson, along with several close friends. Thank you all for your love and support. I want to give thanks to my lord and savior Jesus Christ for his grace and guidance in this journey.

I was born and raised in North Dakota, just a few miles from the historic Williston Basin discovery well. My family's roots run deep in both energy and agriculture. One grandfather managed drilling operations while the other farmed our family homestead, where he and my grandma still live today. Growing up, I developed a profound appreciation for both industries, and the critical role energy plays in modern agriculture, from fueling tractors to providing the fertilizers that nourish our crops. I am proud to say that I am a third-generation energy worker. My family's connection to energy spans decades, and their hard work instilled in me a deep respect for the industry and its importance to our nation.

With a small nudge from my late grandfather, I pursued a degree in petroleum engineering at Montana Tech, followed by an MBA in energy from the University of Oklahoma. This combination of engineering and economic study has been instrumental in shaping my career and preparing me to address the challenges and opportunities in the energy sector. Early in my career, I was fortunate to lead a team that invented and commercialized a diagnostic technique now used globally to optimize hydraulic fracturing and resource development. This experience sparked a growing passion for energy and technology, which led me to leading an Energy Ventures team. In this role, our team had the privilege of investing in early-stage technologies rooted in fundamental science, including a leading next-generation geothermal company with operations in Nevada, and a 500-megawatt development underway in Utah. Our team also conducted technical evaluations for innovative projects, such as a direct lithium extraction from brine in Arkansas and California, carbon capture utilization and sequestration in Wyoming, and produced water treatment and beneficial reuse in New Mexico. These experiences have given me a front-row seat to the incredible innovation happening in our energy industry across our resource-rich nation.

I have been blessed to build my career during one of the most transformative periods in energy history—the shale revolution. The shale revolution was brought about by industry and enabled in part from fundamental research from our tremendous national laboratories. This technological breakthrough moved the U.S. from the world's largest importer of LNG to the world's largest exporter, positioning us as the global leader in oil and natural gas production, transforming us from energy dependent to energy dominant. The energy industry has not only powered our nation, but it has also fueled economic growth, strengthened national security, and improved the quality of life for millions of Americans and our allies around the world. U.S. natural gas has delivered affordable, reliable, and secure energy, and at the same time, reduced the emissions from electricity generation by more than 40 percent.

It has been a privilege to contribute to this progress, and I am passionately aligned with President Trump's common-sense energy agenda, an agenda that will ensure that future generations have access to affordable, reliable, secure, and abundant energy made in America. If confirmed, I will honor the fundamentals of science and economics to serve our country. I am committed to advancing policies that unleash U.S. energy dominance, foster innovation, and ensure that America remains a global leader in energy production and technology. If confirmed, I will work to leverage the incredible talents within DOE and our national laboratories to drive forward cutting-edge research and development. It's an honor of a lifetime to contribute to the mission of the President and the Secretary to fuel peace and prosperity through energy. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Haustveit follows:]

Testimony of Kyle Haustveit,
Nominee for Under Secretary of Energy
at the U.S. Department of Energy,
Before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
February 25, 2026

Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am deeply honored to be considered for the role of Under Secretary of Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). I want to express my sincere gratitude to President Trump for my nomination and to Energy Secretary Wright for his support.

Thank you to my family and friends here with me today and those watching online. Here with me is my high school sweetheart, best friend, and wife, Brea, our four children—Nevaeh, Harper, Noah, and Hudson—along with several close friends. Thank you all for your love and support. I want to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for His grace and guidance in this journey.

I was born and raised in North Dakota, just a few miles from the historic Williston Basin discovery well. My family's roots run deep in both energy and agriculture. One grandfather managed a drilling operation while the other farmed our family homestead, where he and my grandma still live today. Growing up, I developed a profound appreciation for both industries, and the critical role energy plays in modern agriculture—from fueling tractors to providing the fertilizers that nourish our crops.

I am proud to say I am a third generation energy worker. My family's connection to energy spans decades, and their hard work instilled in me a deep respect for the industry and its importance to our nation.

With a small nudge from my late grandfather, I pursued a degree in petroleum engineering at Montana Tech, followed by an MBA in energy from the University of Oklahoma. This combination of engineering and economic study has been instrumental in shaping my career and preparing me to address the challenges and opportunities in the energy sector.

Early in my career, I was fortunate to lead a team that invented and commercialized a diagnostic technique now used globally to optimize hydraulic fracturing and resource development. This experience sparked a growing passion for energy and technology, which led me to lead an Energy Ventures team. In this role, our team had the privilege of investing in early-stage startups rooted in fundamental science, including a leading next-generation geothermal company, with operations in Nevada and a 500 MW development underway in Utah.

Our team also conducted technical evaluations for innovative projects such as a direct lithium extraction from brine in Arkansas and California; carbon capture utilization and sequestration in Wyoming; and produced water treatment and beneficial use in New Mexico. These experiences have given me a front-row seat to the incredible innovation happening in the energy industry across our resource-rich nation.

I have been blessed to build my career during one of the most transformative periods in energy history—the shale revolution. The shale revolution was brought about by industry and enabled in part by fundamental research from our tremendous National Laboratories. This technological breakthrough moved the U.S. from the world's largest importer of liquified natural gas (LNG) to the largest exporter, positioning us as the global leader in oil and natural gas production—transforming us from energy dependent to energy dominant.

The energy industry has not only powered our nation, but it has also fueled economic growth, strengthened national security, and improved the quality of life for millions of Americans and our allies around the world. U.S. natural gas has delivered affordable, reliable, and secure energy, and, at the same time, reduced the emissions from electricity generation by more than 40 percent.

It has been a privilege to contribute to this progress, and I am passionately aligned with President Trump's common sense energy agenda—an agenda that will ensure that future generations have access to affordable, reliable, secure, and abundant energy, made in America!

If confirmed, I will honor the fundamentals of science and economics to serve our country. I am committed to advancing policies that unleash U.S. energy dominance, foster innovation, and ensure that America remains a global leader in energy production and technology. If confirmed, I will work to leverage the incredible talents within DOE and our National Labs to drive forward cutting-edge research and development.

It is an honor of a lifetime to contribute to the mission of the President and the Secretary to fuel peace and prosperity through energy.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to your questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Assistant Secretary Haustveit.
Commissioner LaCerte.

STATEMENT OF DAVID LACERTE, NOMINATED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (REAPPOINTMENT)

Mr. LACERTE. Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and distinguished members of the Committee, good morning. I am grateful for the opportunity to appear before you again today. Thank you to President Trump for renominating me to serve a full term on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and thank you to this Committee for your time. Thank you to my family, who are at home today in Louisiana. Public service can be a tremendous burden, and this burden disproportionately falls not only on the appointee, but on their loved ones. Thank you for the grace you continue to give me while I serve the American people.

I would like to briefly speak to our accomplishments since I have been seated at FERC, my commitments made to you in the fall, and address what you can expect to see from me if I am given the honor of serving a full term as Commissioner. At my first open meeting, we proposed rulemakings to expand the successful pipeline certification program for both hydroelectric and liquefied natural gas facilities. We prioritized cutting red tape, advancing stalled projects, and ensuring that permits are issued in a timely and legally defensible manner. I want to pause on LNG for a moment. Utilizing our vast natural resources is not just an economic advantage, it's a geopolitical necessity that ensures our allies are fueled by reliable American energy rather than the coercion of our adversaries. Critical to this goal was maintaining and developing a robust export infrastructure here in the U.S., a mission-critical task that I am focused on achieving. I have also been very vocal about the need to declutter the Commission's dockets. Proceedings that linger for years serve no one. They create uncertainty for investors, delay critical infrastructure, and erode confidence in the regulatory process.

Since my first month, I have supported action to remove outdated regulations and issue timely orders, and I will continue striving for more efficient and disciplined processes at FERC. In our second month, we demonstrated our commitment to powering America's leadership in artificial intelligence and advanced technologies while protecting ratepayers. This may be the defining competitive challenge of our generation. If we are not the world's leader in AI, our adversaries surely will be. We need to meet this moment, and we will do so without sacrificing affordability. In December, we issued an order addressing service to large load—including data centers—co-located with generating facilities, through revisions to PJM's Tariff. I recognize this represents a first step in a very long road, but I am proud of the decisive action the Commission took.

At a time when energy demand is rising and reliability challenges are mounting, the Commission has acted with focus, efficiency, and disciplined urgency. Year-to-date, we have already issued 18 percent more orders over the same time period in 2025. Since I have joined the Commission, we have voted in nearly 300

proceedings and authorized the addition of 4.14 million dekatherms of natural gas transportation capacity, enough to support the electricity needs of 13 to 18 million American households. That pace will accelerate as we remove distractions and focus on what matters within our statutory jurisdiction. By narrowly focusing on that jurisdiction, we are building, we are advancing, and we are strengthening energy security for our nation.

I made commitments to these Senators across the aisle about how I would approach this work, and I welcome accountability for those commitments. From my first open meeting, I stated plainly, my duty is to the ratepayer. There are always people looking to curry favor for one project or one industry. And I meant what I said: none of those people represent the ratepayer. I do. My commitment to the ratepayer has not wavered, and this commitment will not relent for as long as I have the privilege to serve.

On affordability and reliability, I am fully all-in. Growth must not come at the expense of ordinary Americans already concerned about their energy bills. It is our duty as Commissioners to fully protect ratepayers from undue costs, and to power American industry for load growth and re-industrialization. We can do both and we must do both. In the fall, this body asked me to commit to resource neutrality as required by the law. I have demonstrated that commitment and I will continue to do so. This body also asked me to commit to upholding FERC's independence. I will always uphold that commitment. The value of this Commission to markets, to investors, and to the American public depends on its credibility as an independent decision-making and rate-setting body. FERC's decisions are subject to judicial review by the courts, and I will ensure those decisions are respected and carried out in the interest of the people and in accordance with the law.

Will I continue to seek input from all stakeholders? Absolutely. Sound decisions require broad engagement, but consultation does not compromise independence. My duty is to the law and to the statutory responsibilities entrusted to the Commission. We have several monumental challenges facing our grid, any of which would be generational in nature. I am confident that we can empower American innovation to see us through these challenges to the more efficient, more powerful, and more affordable grid of tomorrow.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. LaCerte follows:]

Written Testimony of David LaCerte
Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
February 25, 2026

Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and distinguished members of the Committee.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to appear before you again today. Thank you to the President for renominating me to serve a full term on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I appreciate this Committee's time in considering my nomination.

Thank you also to my family for your grace, your patience, and your support. Without your strength, none of this would be possible.

I'd like to speak to our accomplishments in the few short months since I've been seated at FERC, discuss the commitments I made to you in the fall while this Committee was considering me for confirmation to my current term, and finally address what you can expect from me if I am given the honor of serving a full term as FERC Commissioner.

At my first open meeting as a Commissioner at FERC, we proposed rulemakings to expand the successful pipeline certification program to both hydroelectric and liquefied natural gas facilities. These are both mature industries with sophisticated parties and with which the Commission has considerable experience. Therefore, considering the expansion of the flexibilities provided by blanket certifications, as we propose to do in the rulemakings, is warranted.

We prioritized cutting red tape, advancing stalled projects, and ensuring permits are issued in a timely and legally defensible manner. I have also been vocal about the need to declutter the Commission's dockets. Proceedings that linger for years serve no one. They create uncertainty for investors and regulated industries, delay the construction and operation of critical infrastructure, and erode confidence in the regulatory process. Since my first month at the Commission, I have supported action to remove outdated and unnecessary regulations, and issue timely orders, and I will keep striving for more efficient, disciplined processes at FERC.

In my second month at the Commission, we demonstrated our commitment to powering America's leadership in artificial intelligence and advanced technologies, while protecting ratepayers. This may be the defining competitive challenge of our generation. If we are not the world's leader in AI, our adversaries will be. We will meet this moment, and we will do so without sacrificing affordability.

In December, we issued an order where we addressed service to large load—including data centers—co-located with generating facilities, through revisions to PJM's Tariff. Among those revisions, the Commission directed PJM to establish transparent rules governing certain large load arrangements and certain transmission services. I recognize that this represents a first step in

a long road, but I'm proud of the decisive action that the Commission took in that proceeding, which continues to be pending before us.

At a time when energy demand is rising and reliability challenges are mounting, the Commission has acted with focus, efficiency, and disciplined urgency. Year-to-date, the Commission has already issued 18% more orders over the same period in 2025. Since I've joined the Commission, we've voted in nearly 280 proceedings. And the Commission has authorized the addition of 4.14 million dekatherms of natural gas transportation capacity, enough fuel to support the electricity needs of 13 to 18 million American households. That pace will further accelerate as we remove distractions, extra-jurisdictional side quests, and focus on what matters. By that I mean this Commission should not use the limited number of hours in a day, month, and year on matters extra-jurisdictional to the agency.

By narrowly focusing on our statutory jurisdiction, we are building. We are advancing. And we are strengthening energy security for our nation. We're fighting for American households, and I am committed to ensuring this momentum continues in order to bring long-term results. I made commitments to Senators across the aisle about how I would approach this work. I welcome accountability for those commitments and want to make clear how I intend to uphold them if my nomination for another term is confirmed.

From my first open Commission meeting as a Commissioner, I stated plainly that my duty is to the ratepayer. I said then that there would be many people in that room looking to curry favor for one project or one industry. And I meant what I said: none of those people represent the ratepayer. We on the Commission do, as you in the Senate do. My commitment to the ratepayer has not wavered and, going forward, it will not.

On affordability and reliability, I have worked to ensure those principles remain the Commission's North Star. As load growth accelerates, I have been unwavering in my commitment that this growth must not come at the expense of ordinary Americans who are already concerned about their energy bills. I have publicly stated that it is our duty as Commissioners to fully protect ratepayers from undue costs, and I will continue to carry out that duty.

I also remain committed to resource neutrality as required by the Federal Power Act. The Commission's role is not to steer the market toward any particular fuel or technology, it is to ensure that rates are just and reasonable, and that markets are competitive and fair. I have held steadfast to these principles and will continue to do so.

On FERC's independence, let me be direct. The value of this Commission to markets, to investors, and to the American public depends on its credibility as an independent, decision-making and rate-setting body. That independence is not a courtesy; it is a structural safeguard that Congress deliberately built into this agency.

Will I continue to seek input from all stakeholders? Absolutely. Sound decisions require broad engagement, especially with those who each day engage with our regulated markets as industry participants, consumer groups and as state representatives. But consultation does not

compromise independence. My duty is to the law and to the statutory responsibilities entrusted to this Commission.

Which brings me to what I view as the central obligations of a full term as a FERC Commissioner: ensuring just and reasonable rates, protecting ratepayers, restoring stability, and reinforcing confidence in our energy markets. Long-term energy investment—the kind that builds pipelines, transmission lines, power plants, and the infrastructure backbone this country —requires regulatory predictability. When the Commission acts within its congressional mandate, makes decisions grounded in law and fact, and resolves matters in a timely manner, it sends a clear signal to capital markets that the rules of the road are stable and reliable. That confidence strengthens investment. It supports utilities and infrastructure development. Most importantly, it protects every customer and ratepayer, young and senior, from hard-working families to locally owned businesses who participate in a fair market.

While I have served on this Commission for only a relatively short time, I have approached this responsibility with seriousness, independence, and a clear understanding of whom I serve: the American people. I welcome and am humbled by the President's renomination of me to continue that work.

It is a profound honor to serve on this Commission, and I welcome your questions today as I seek this Committee's approval and the Senate's confirmation to permit me to continue this vital work throughout a full term. It is my hope that you will see that my record reflects fidelity to the law and commitment to FERC's mission, two standards against which I believe every Commissioner's actions should be evaluated.

The CHAIRMAN. Thanks, Commissioner.
We will hear now from Congressman Pearce.

STATEMENT OF STEVAN PEARCE, NOMINATED TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Mr. PEARCE. Good morning and thank you, Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich for your leadership on this Committee. I am deeply grateful for the support of my family and friends who are with us today or watching on C-Span. I especially want to recognize my strong and amazing wife, Cynthia, our daughter Lori, our grandson Preston, his wife Erin, our granddaughter Olivia, and my brother, Greg. I am honored to be nominated by President Trump to serve as the Director of the Bureau of Land Management. Growing up in a large family on a small five-acre farm—a New Mexico farm—the concept of preserving and conserving the land and water was instilled in me through necessity and it was refined by the training I received in 4-H.

During my years at New Mexico State University, I worked every holiday and summer in the oil fields to pay for college. In my junior year, I won the draft lottery and got free flying lessons and an all-expense paid trip to Vietnam. After graduation, I went straight to USAF pilot training, then my first assignment was flying combat missions in Vietnam in 1971, 1972, and 1973, where I earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and multiple Air Medals and developed a love for veterans and aviation that exists today still. In 2016, while still a Member of Congress, I flew my single-engine, 4-seat Mooney aircraft, solo, circumnavigating the globe in 15 days, dedicating the effort to the warriors who never made it home. I continue to fly and work for veterans today.

When I got back from Vietnam, I experienced the healing serenity of backpacking in wilderness areas across the country. In 1981, I married my wife, Cynthia, and together we bought a small, struggling oil field service business, and for 14 years, I learned the art of repairing problem oil wells. We were basically plumbers working 5,000 feet deep. Running a small business fit well with the values with which I was raised—work hard, treat others fairly, provide good customer service. We sold the business in 2003. I served seven terms representing the 2nd District of New Mexico, a majority-minority district, which was 34 percent registered Republicans. The district was 70,000 square miles—larger than the State of Florida—with about one-third of the state being federal land. The 2nd district provided many examples of what multiple use means. Hunting and access and outdoor sports are drivers of one local economy. In another area, oil and gas provide the jobs, and yet another has national parks and monuments. The district had mining, grazing, forests, wildfires, wilderness areas, and was home to Native American pueblos, tribes and chapter houses.

Much of my life is a life of service, and I am proud of that. During my 14 years as a Congressman, I traveled the district extensively, seeing firsthand the problems faced by my constituents, who, like my parents, work hard every day trying to provide for their families. I also saw what the Founding Fathers feared—a Federal Government acting as an absentee landlord, which, instead of partnering with states and local communities, rules over them.

After a devastating wildfire, the Forest Service assigned local ranchers in my district to grazing lands as far away as Wyoming. The cost of trucking cattle that distance would have led to the extinction of small ranchers and collapse of the local economy. My staff identified nearby allotments that had not been grazed for years and lobbied the Forest Service to open those. The agency initially stood its ground but ultimately could not dispute the facts. The ranchers and the local economy survived. I was gratified to include funding in an early appropriations process to clean out the sediment threatening the health of the Blue Hole of Santa Rosa, a popular recreational spring in the New Mexico desert. We got word shortly after that the agency had repurposed these funds. I am proud of my efforts to claw the funds back to clean out the spring for future generations.

These examples show my distinct dedication to working with local stakeholders and the Federal Government to ensure our land managers are making decisions based on local input and in accordance with the law. If confirmed, I fully intend to uphold these same principles as BLM Director and ensure local input is a key factor in my decision-making. I have also seen firsthand the importance of our public lands and support those missions completely. I met many of the dedicated public servants who make the federal agencies work, and together we accomplished amazing things. When the lesser prairie chicken was at risk of being listed as endangered, my office worked with all the stakeholders to establish a voluntary process to increase habitat and prevent a listing. I believe that we can duplicate those efforts to solve not only endangered species, but orphaned wells, abandoned mines, and many issues, including providing clean and plentiful water.

President Trump has proven we can achieve his vision of energy dominance while providing clean air, water, and soil. We must preserve the natural spaces so that all people have access to the spiritual beauty of the outdoors, where hunting and fishing can be passed down from one generation to the next, where critical minerals can be developed, freeing us from dependence on China, and Native American lands and resources can be protected. The security and economic health of the country, especially the western states, rests squarely on the shoulders of the BLM. We can and must balance the different uses of public lands. Local economies and future generations depend on us doing our job right. Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pearce follows:]

Statement of Stevan Edward Pearce
Nominee for the Position of Director of the Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
Before the United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
February 25, 2026

Good morning. Thank you, Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich, for your leadership on this committee.

I'm deeply grateful for the support of my friends and family who are with us today or watching on C-Span. I especially want to recognize my strong and amazing wife, Cynthia, our daughter Lori, her husband Craig, our grandson Preston, his wife Erin and our granddaughter Olivia.

I am honored to be nominated by President Trump to serve as the Director of the Bureau of Land Management. Growing up in a large family on a small 5-acre New Mexico farm, the concept of preserving and conserving the land and water was instilled in me through necessity and it was refined by the training I received in 4-H.

During my years at New Mexico State University, I worked every holiday and summer in the oil field to pay for college. In my junior year, I won the draft lottery and got free flying lessons and an all-expense paid trip to Vietnam. After graduation I went straight to USAF pilot training. My first assignment was flying combat missions in Vietnam in 1971, 72 and 73 where I earned the Distinguished Flying Cross and multiple Air Medals and developed a love for veterans and aviation.

In 2016, while still a member of Congress, I flew my single engine, 4-seat Mooney aircraft, solo, circumnavigating the globe in 15 days, dedicating the effort to the warriors who never made it home. I continue to fly and work for veterans today.

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Running a small business fit well with the values with which I was raised – work hard, treat others fairly and provide good customer service. We sold the business in 2003.

I served seven terms representing the 2nd District of New Mexico, a majority-minority district, which was 34% registered Republicans. The district was 70,000 square miles, larger than the state of Florida, with about 1/3 of the state being federal land.

The 2nd district provided many examples of what multiple use means. Hunting, access and outdoor sports are drivers of one local economy. In another area oil and gas provide the jobs, yet

another has national parks and monuments. The district had mining, grazing, forests, wildfires, wilderness areas and was home to Native American pueblos, tribes and chapter houses.

Much of my life is a life of service, and I am proud of that. During my 14 years as a congressman, I traveled the district extensively, seeing firsthand the problems faced by my constituents who, like my parents, work hard every day trying to provide for their families.

I also saw what the Founding Fathers feared: a federal government acting as an absentee landlord which, instead of partnering with states and local communities, rules over them.

After a devastating wildfire, the Forest Service assigned local ranchers in my district to grazing lands as far away as Wyoming. The cost of trucking cattle that distance would have led to the extinction of small ranchers and collapse of the local economy. My staff identified nearby allotments that had not been grazed for years and lobbied the Forest Service to open those. The agency initially stood its ground but ultimately could not dispute the facts. The ranchers and the local economy survived.

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I have also seen first-hand the importance of our public lands and support those missions completely. I met many of the dedicated public servants who make the federal agencies work and together we accomplished some amazing things.

When the Lesser Prairie Chicken was at risk of being listed as endangered, my office worked with ALL stakeholders to establish a voluntary process to increase habitat and prevent a listing. I believe we can duplicate those efforts to solve not only endangered species but orphan wells, abandoned mines and many other issues, including providing clean and plentiful water.

President Trump has proven we can achieve his vision of Energy dominance while preserving clean air, water and soil.

We must preserve the natural spaces so all people have access to the spiritual beauty of the outdoors, where hunting and fishing can be passed down from one generation to the next, where critical minerals can be developed, freeing us from dependence on China. Native American lands and resources can be protected.

The security and economic health of the country, especially the western states, rests squarely on the shoulders of the BLM. We can and must balance the different uses of public lands. Local economies and future generations depend on us doing our job right.

Thank you and I look forward to your questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much.

We will now begin our five-minute rounds of questions, alternating between Republicans and Democrats in order of seniority, subject to the early-bird rule, and we will begin that now.

Assistant Secretary Haustveit, let's start with you. My state, the State of Utah, has enormous geothermal potential, and the office that you currently lead at the Department of Energy funds geothermal research and development. Can you talk about some of the exciting work that has been going on in that office, the one that you currently lead, when it comes to developing and commercializing geothermal power at scale?

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. Senator, thank you for the question.

To start with, we share oftentimes that the problem statement for geothermal today is identical to that of the shale revolution 25 years ago. We have a vast resource in place that lacks the natural permeability to produce at commercial rates. That was the same problem statement for oil and gas 25 years ago. We solved that with horizontal wells and multi-stage stimulation. It's the same problem statement for geothermal today. And one of the methods to extract that resource is with horizontal wells and multi-stage hydraulic fracturing. A project in your home state, FORGE, funded by the Department of Energy, was groundbreaking. It provided critical drilling information, which led to commercial leasing and now active development of a 500-megawatt resource in Southwest Utah. Along with that, just this morning, we announced the Department's largest-ever funding opportunity for geothermal, $171.5 million, focused on reservoir characterization and pilot-scale demonstrations.

On the resource characterization, what's important about that is, the western part of the country is not as well explored as many of the shale basins. The shale basins had a benefit because most conventional basins exist on top of an unconventional shale. So, we have drilled through these resources for over 100 years, and with that, we have logged it and we can map it. We lack that information in the subsurface in the West. And that's part of the reason that one of our topic areas is to do exactly that—help support the industry and de-risk in the resource of finding more hot rock that we develop commercially. Our goal is to take geothermal out of the other bucket. When you look at the energy stack, you see this sliver of energy that sits on top of all the other primary energy sources. Our goal is to provide cost-competitive, gigawatt-scale power generation from the vast amounts of geothermal resource in the United States.

The CHAIRMAN. So, your hope is that on those western lands that are not as well known, that haven't been as thoroughly explored, to help replicate some of that so as to create the information necessary that would lead to more lease sales and more utilization for geothermal.

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. Yes, Senator, that's correct.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Commissioner LaCerte, natural gas is the backbone of the modern electrical grid in America. Without access to natural gas, without access to, you know, very plentiful supplies of natural gas at reasonable prices, there would have been widespread outages across the East Coast just during the most recent winter storm. We

don't even have to go back more than a few days to cover that. Looking back at your first few months as a member of FERC, how has FERC moved the needle on clearing the backlog for natural gas pipelines and LNG facilities?

Mr. LACERTE. That's a great question, Senator, thank you very much and thank you for acknowledging the work that natural gas has done to keep the lights on, keep homes warm, and quite frankly, save people's lives over the past several weeks as most of the country had gone into deep freeze, a really unprecedented deep freeze where gas has really done all of the heavy lifting. And at FERC, I think, you could see—I mentioned in my opening that we have approved more gas in the first four months during my tenure here than we have in quite a while. We are going to continue to keep that work and we are going to continue to right-size NEPA under *Seven County*. We are going to continue to hold our states to the fire and then make sure they are making smart, right decisions for a lot of generation siting, and quite frankly, we need to focus more on natural gas as the reliable, clean energy source that it is.

And you're right, you can see moving up and down the East Coast, the areas that have an abundant supply of natural gas through our pipelines faired much better than the areas that did not. So, we think that we are very blessed geologically in our country to employ these molecules, to put them to work, and we need to do a better job of that across the board.

The CHAIRMAN. With those pipelines, I completely agree, the pipeline infrastructure is essential to that. What do you see as the biggest obstacles slowing that and threatening the progress on that front?

Mr. LACERTE. Well, I think you see that here. I think we have struggled with the Clean Water Act certifications for quite a while. I personally do not believe that one state should be able to hold hostage a whole region of the country to accessing clean natural gas. That is an issue before you, and I look forward to Congress addressing that.

The CHAIRMAN. Great. Thank you.

Senator Heinrich.

Senator HEINRICH. Thank you, Chairman. Welcome to all of you.

Congressman, I am going to start with you, and when I looked at the constituent communication with respect to your nomination, there were two issues that dominated 90-plus percent of it. We discussed these yesterday. The first is the issue of the potential broad-scale divestment of public lands, and this is something that came up with Secretary Burgum in his nomination as well. And I think he did a good job of talking about how, while it may be completely appropriate to divest of certain isolated parcels of public land for affordable housing and other public purposes, that there wouldn't be a broad-scale selling off of the public lands. And because of some of your previous writings and statements, there is a concern among New Mexicans that a sale of public lands on a broader scale might be part of the new BLM agenda.

Can you speak to that, and maybe allay some of those concerns?

Mr. PEARCE. Thank you, Senator, and I appreciate the chance to talk about this. The Secretary has been very straightforward that

he does not visualize any large-scale sales of land. FLPMA does not allow BLM to go in and the Director of BLM to have these large-scale sales. That's something that, frankly, the isolated parcels, I would look to members of this Committee to identify those. I think that, from my time in office, I know that I would have understood better than any Director of the BLM the sensitivity of this piece of land or that piece of land. And so, that's the reason I say I will look to you all on that. There is a monumental amount of work to be done. And again, I would say, gladly, I would use the help that you all could provide in identifying those parcels.

But just to put it into context, when I first got to the state legislature, Los Alamos, or the home of the Los Alamos Labs, was trying to get five acres. And they've been trying, they said, for years. I don't know if that has even occurred today, but when it didn't occur then, the community was forced to move 20 miles down a mountain and form a community there where people could afford to live. And then, in the wintertime, we would lose two or three people who work at the labs every year off those snow covered passes. And it's that kind of restrictive holding that I think we are meant to address, but again.

Senator HEINRICH. That's where the focus should be.

Mr. PEARCE. I look to you all to provide that focus for the agency.

Senator HEINRICH. The other issue—and I have correspondence from a number of Las Cruces City Councilors, the Mayor of Mesilla, Doña Ana County Commissioners, and state representatives and senators in southern New Mexico, as well as soil and water conservation district members—is the issue of the future of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. I know there is a lot of water under the bridge on that issue between both of us, but what would you say to those elected officials in Doña Ana County about your approach with respect to the monument?

Mr. PEARCE. Senator, again, thanks for the opportunity to clarify that because that issue was very hotly contested in the county for about 15 years, and eventually it was designated by executive order. I very rarely look in the rear-view mirror, especially looking at this job and the amount of work ahead of us. I don't anticipate going back and reviewing that. At the end of the day, it's a presidential decision anyway, but I don't view myself as going and making a recommendation. There is too much ahead of us to get done to focus on things that have happened in the past. It has been recognized and operating.

Senator HEINRICH. I appreciate that very much.

I also want to say how much I appreciate your interest in orphaned wells and abandoned mines. That's a place where I think we can really build some bipartisan support for that kind of work, and I look forward to continuing that conversation with you.

I am going to switch now to Mr. Haustveit, and I am going to ask the same question that I asked your predecessor during his hearing about a year ago, and that is, would you agree that in this environment of increased demand, probably the most increased demand we have seen since the invention of the air conditioner, that we need an energy strategy that is focused on rapidly expanding production from all available sources, including things like renewables and storage?

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. Senator, thank you for the question.

As we have seen in the last month or so, it's critical that we prioritize reliability. We have seen with the winter storm that when people need lights, they need heat, we need to make sure we have got the energy forms available to deploy on the grid. So, I believe in the best of the above. Not all energy is created equally, and not all energy types should be deployed across every different region of the U.S. and of the world. So, best of the above, prioritize reliability and affordability to make sure that we take care of American citizens.

Senator HEINRICH. Yes, and I would agree with you that reliability is non-negotiable. I will also point out that we have been able to develop a grid in New Mexico that is incredibly clean and more reliable than most in the country and yet also produces that energy at a price per kilowatt-hour that is a lot lower than many places around the country. And I hope that we can continue to see that kind of progress.

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. I look forward to working together. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Barrasso.

Senator BARRASSO. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

And Congressman, great to see you again. I sure enjoyed working with you when you chaired the Congressional Western Caucus. Congratulations to all three of you. I would like to start with you though, because we worked together and we spoke yesterday in my office specifically about the BLM and the critical role it plays in the lifeblood of the economy of the State of Wyoming. When we had the nomination hearing in this room for Secretary Burgum, I asked him a series of questions about the BLM and things and decisions related to Wyoming, and I am going to ask you similar questions today about my home state.

Specifically, we talked yesterday about the Rock Springs Resource Management Plan (RMP). We spoke in detail about it, and it was something that the last administration came out with, rejected any input from the State of Wyoming, accepted comments from around the world, including, apparently, some from bots from China and something that, clearly, the last administration was promoting, that locked up millions of acres of land that local communities in the entire state rely upon. The governor, the state legislature, the county commissioners, and the local communities all strongly opposed the plan. Will you commit to working with my office and to the State of Wyoming to amend what I believe was a disastrous plan?

Mr. PEARCE. Absolutely, Senator. I think that one of the more important elements of any plan is local input. Custom and culture is known by the people who live in an area, and very seldom known by the people in Washington, and that is a strong commitment I make.

Senator BARRASSO. Since you are talking about the people that live locally, I think we are very fortunate in Wyoming to have field offices for the Bureau of Land Management throughout our state. This allows the federal agency to better serve our rural communities, and many of these offices are located near the natural resources all across the state where they have oversight. The field offices are located in our more rural areas, directly near our agri-

culture and our energy interests and industries—Buffalo, Cody, Newcastle, Pinedale. I am hearing from local leaders who would like to make sure that there is certainty for the next few years, in terms of whether the field offices will stay in these communities. Would you be willing to commit to working with my office to ensure longevity for our Wyoming field offices?

Mr. PEARCE. Absolutely, Senator. And again, my county is now the highest oil producing county in the nation, and we recognize the importance of having a close-by office to where you can take questions to them and get answers. And so, I absolutely commit to work with you on that.

Senator BARRASSO. Great.

Mr. LaCerte, earlier this month, you appeared at the House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing. In your testimony, you stated that a big part of permitting delay results from permitting decisions that take too long and the leveraging of judicial review to create uncertainty around project development. I mean, fear, uncertainty, and doubt are the things that stop things. Delay is no longer the currency it once was, and we frankly can't afford these types of delays. In your view, what are the biggest obstacles to a more stable and timely permitting process?

Mr. LACERTE. Thank you for the question. I think the Supreme Court went a long way in that with the unanimous decision in *Seven County* last year. I think the unanimous nature of their decision speaks to the bipartisan nature that NEPA has been running amok and had been used to block projects rather than to review projects. I think that's step one. I think step two is, we need to identify that the time is now to take action. I think that we have been sitting on a lot of projects for too long, whether that be in permitting, whether that be in interconnection, whether that be in siting. I think that we need to do a better job collaborating with our states to permit, site, and build more generation and do a better job of building and progressing interstate pipelines and doing all of the above. I think that we need to do everything better. So, narrowing it down to one issue, one fact pattern, I think, would be foolish.

Senator BARRASSO. Okay. Are there steps you have already taken since you have been on the FERC?

Mr. LACERTE. Yes. So, we have right-sized our own NEPA process, which is ongoing and continuous. This work is not a magic bullet. We are going to continue to get more efficient, more effective. We are going to continue to move projects faster out of our queue. I know that a lot of things have languished over time. So, taking a look at what is on our docket, taking a look at what is within our jurisdiction, what is not. I think all these things are going to enable us to more narrowly focus, use staff more wisely, and get projects built.

Senator BARRASSO. Good.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Wyden.

Senator WYDEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Congressman, we don't know each other and didn't have a chance to visit, so I tend to look at documents, public documents, and what I have seen with respect to your views on selling off public lands

doesn't really square with what I heard you say to my colleague here. So, I want to ask you about some of these comments. Not long ago, you said with respect to public land located in western states—and I am a westerner—you said, and I quote, "most of it we do not even need." Now, my question to you then is—is there too much public land in the West now, in your view? Because that is a direct quote, a quote that you made in connection with some leadership matters previously.

So, tell me how we square those two views because that is a very blunt statement with respect to public land in my state and in the west—"most of it we do not even need." So, is that something you said some time ago and you no longer believe, or perhaps you could just make——

Mr. PEARCE. Thank you, Senator and I appreciate the question.

Senator WYDEN. Pardon me, one second.

Mr. Chairman, I would just ask that we put into the record at this point in the questions some of these specifics that I am asking about.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection.

[2012 letter co-written by then-Congressman Pearce follows:]

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 26, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker:

As negotiations continue regarding the so-called "fiscal cliff", we are pleased with your position to oppose job-crushing tax increases. The federal government has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. Increases in marginal tax rates would grow government spending, cost our economy 700,000 jobs[1], and would slow an already sluggish economy.

The latest October spending report is telling. The October deficit was $120 billion, up from $98.5 billion for the previous year[2]. This deficit was not the result of revenue shortfalls. Revenues rose 13% over the same period from a year ago. Instead, the deficit was fueled by out-of-control government spending. Spending during the month of October increased 16% above October FY2012 levels. This dismal monthly report means the Obama Administration is on track for yet another trillion dollar deficit, the norm under its watch.

The President's plan to increase taxes on small businesses and other Americans does little to close these trillion dollar deficits. It was reported in July that ending the Bush-era tax cuts for top income earners would raise about $80 billion in 2013[3]. Aside from the negative impact the increases would have on the economy, this total falls short of the revenue needed to close these trillion-dollar-plus deficits.

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[1] Drs. Robert Carroll and Gerald Prante of Ernst and Young (July 2012) Long-run macroeconomic impact of increasing tax rates on high-income taxpayers in 2013. Retrieved November 16, 2012 from http://www.nfib.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=QMV7uZczVaM%3d&tabid=1083

[2] US could be on path to fifth straight $1 trillion deficit after government runs $120 billion October deficit. Retrieved November 16, 2012 from http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/11/13/us-government-runs-120-billion-october-deficit/#ixzz2CPHlx553

[3] Montgomery, Lori (July 19, 2012) Ending Bush tax cuts for rich would save about $80 billion in 2013, analyst says. Retrieved November 16, 2012 from http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/ending-bush-tax-cuts-for-rich-would-save-just-28-billion-in-2013-analysts-say/2012/07/19/gJQAW0m0vW_story.html

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Instead, Congress should take immediate steps to reduce spending and find alternative ways to increase revenues. This balanced approach can be achieved by tapping into our onshore and offshore energy resources, disposing of unneeded land, and liquidating surplus federal buildings.

By tapping into our nation's abundant energy resources, we could boost revenues through increased economic activity, job creation, and payments to the U.S. Treasury. Already, the oil and gas industry contributes roughly $31.4 billion per year to the U.S. Treasury in bonus, rent, royalty, and tax payments[4] and an additional $38 billion in state and local taxes[5]. More favorable policies to allow for responsible development of federally-owned land and water would increase these figures considerably. The Green River Formation, home to over 1 trillion barrels of recoverable oil shale, nearly four times the reserves of Saudi Arabia, has been essentially placed off limits by the Obama Administration. In Alaska, the opening of a small area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge could generate upwards of $50 billion in federal royalty payments over the life of the project[6]. In total, a mere 5.4% of onshore federal lands and just 2.2% of federal offshore areas are leased for oil and gas development[7]. And as production has increased on state and private land, it has fallen on federally-owned land. Oil production on federal lands fell by an average of 275,000 barrels per day in FY2011, which represents a loss not only to our domestic oil supply but also to the U.S. Treasury.

Second, divesting the federal government of its vast land holdings could pay down the deficit and reduce spending. The federal government owns roughly 650 million acres of land, or 1/3 of the entire landmass of our country. Over 90% of this land is located in the western states and most of it we do not even need. To the surprise of many, the National Park Service, the trustee of our nation's most treasured landscapes, holds just 12% of this land[8]. The other 88% is managed mostly by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service at a cost of several billion dollars each year. Strategically transferring ownership of these lands where it makes sense would reduce duplicative land management costs, boost revenues through the resultant economic activity of more productive and local land management, and is consistent with the principles of federalism our founding fathers envisioned.

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[4] American's oil and natural gas industry pays its fair share. Retrieved November 16, 2012 from http://www.api.org/policy-and-issues/policy-items/taxes/paying-our-fair-share.aspx

[5] Email from IPAA (11/16/2012) The REAL Facts on Independent Producer Taxes.

[6] Potential Budgetary Effects of Immediately Opening Most Federal Land to Oil and Gas Leasing (August 2012). Retrieved November 16, 2012 from http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/08-09-12_Oil-and-Gas_Leasing.pdf

[7] Hard Fact: An Energy Primer. 2012. Retrieved November 16, 2012 from http://instituteforenergyresearch.org/hardfacts.pdf

[8] Congressional Research Service. Federal land ownership: overview and data. Retrieved November 16, 2012 from http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42346.pdf.

Finally, Congress could liquidate excess and surplus assets. Government audits have estimated that the federal government holds more than 55,000 unneeded properties[9] The proceeds from the sale of these excess properties, along with operations and maintenance savings, could save billions of dollars annually. This idea was also championed by the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles Commission.

Again, the federal government has a spending problem, not a tax problem. We reject the notion that tax increases will tackle our exploding deficit. Instead, we support a combination of spending reductions and revenue-expanding policies that create jobs and grow the economy. Thank you for your service and leadership. Please contact us directly for more information or to discuss these ideas further.

Sincerely,

Rob Bishop
Immediate Past Chairman
Congressional Western Caucus

Stevan Pearce
Chairman
Congressional Western Caucus

[9] GAO testimony before the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Federal Real Property: Progress Made on Planning and Data, but Unneeded Owned and Leased Facilities Remain. April 6, 2011. Retrieved from http://republicans.transportation.house.gov/Media/file/TestimonyEDPB/2011-04-06%20Wise.pdf

Mr. PEARCE. So, again, Senator, thanks for the question and I look forward to visiting with you in your office and getting to know you and your state more personally. But the statement made there was when I represented, as a legislative person, a district that was, I think, at odds with federal agencies many times because the management of those lands is sometimes not as well done as it should be, and local people pay the price. It cost them jobs. It cost them their careers. It cost them their land. And so, I spoke of those frustrations, but I don't, as I expressed to Senator Heinrich, I don't visualize selling large swaths of land.

Senator WYDEN. Let's be clear on this. You no longer agree with the statement you made years ago that I quoted you on because people can change their mind. I get that. But do you continue to hold that view, or have you changed your mind about something that—we are westerners, and we care about these kinds of things, so, what's your——

Mr. PEARCE. Again, Senator, I'm not so sure that I have changed. I'm not sure that I was not speaking out of sheer frustration with an agency on behalf of the people who were being overwhelmed. So, I do not believe that we are going to go out and wholesale land from the Federal Government. That, again, had been stated by the Secretary, and federal law says that we can't do that from the BLM itself.

Senator WYDEN. Well, with respect to that, it's pretty hard for us to be able, in the West, to trust someone who fundamentally doesn't believe that these public lands are important. I know you answered my colleague to the effect, well, we may not be able to do all the things that some people care about, but you are going to be in a position of great influence, and I followed that. I was Chairman of this Committee for some time before I went to Finance, and I want to know—somebody says, "you know, that really was extreme, I don't believe that anymore," and what you said to me just now is, well, I was kind of frustrated about it back then and we will try to work something out now and I will tell you——

Mr. PEARCE. No, it's——

Senator WYDEN. [continuing]. I think we have got to do better.

Mr. PEARCE. Thank you, Senator. And I absolutely believe in the public lands and the public lands missions. I think that one of the most important things, just in my personal life, was the hikes that we would go on. Our family would go to Tucson, and my granddaughter sitting behind me was about five or six. She was the only one in the family who would get up early. I would say I am going to go walk at five, if you want to be out there, if you want to go with me, and she would. And that was really a special time. So, I recognize the importance of the federal lands and support the missions completely. I do not believe that we have too much federal land sitting in public hands. I know that it creates great stress in the West to have these lands managed from Washington. That, I do know.

Senator WYDEN. That last statement indicates your change in your views. So, I want to have some more conversation. If you are, that's a different story because these are treasures, and I look at your career and these documents because we didn't, you know, know each other. And you have made something of a career out of

supporting the selling off of public lands, and I want to know if you are changing your position, and my door will be open to talk further.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Wyden.

It's important for us to remember that current federal law does not allow this. It does not allow the mass sale of federal public lands. And so, you know, absent an act of Congress authorizing such a thing, the question is moot, and Congressman Pearce has noted this point repeatedly, and has acknowledged that he will follow the law.

Senator WYDEN. Mr. Chairman, just very briefly.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Senator WYDEN. I had about ten more seconds.

The CHAIRMAN. Go ahead.

Senator WYDEN. I think my concern is that when we have these smaller parcels and the like, which can be sold, that's what concerns me, and I look forward to continuing the conversation.

The CHAIRMAN. Great. Thank you.

Senator Risch.

Senator RISCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Haustveit, first of all, thank you for agreeing to meet with me. We are going to meet a little bit later today. We have the advantage of you having performed, and I hear nothing but good things. Looking forward to talking with you.

And Mr. LaCerte, same thing with you. You've had a year over there and I hear nothing but good things about your service there. So, it's always good to have this when we are voting on a confirmation to see, to have a background, where people have served in that position.

So, to both of you, thank you for your service.

Mr. Pearce, thank you for meeting with me. And you know, I am a one-issue guy on your appointment, and I want to stress, for people watching this today, that we are talking about a job that you are appointed to, to manage the BLM, and I stress, *manage* the BLM. The policy regarding the BLM, you understand, is the purview of this body and the body you formerly served in. Do you agree with me on that?

Mr. PEARCE. I do, Senator.

Senator RISCH. And we had a good discussion along the lines that Senator Lee just underscored, and that is that there is no authority for you, or for that matter, for the President, to sell off public lands. You agree with that?

Mr. PEARCE. I agree with that, Senator.

Senator RISCH. And as I explained to you, this is a 98 percent issue in Idaho. In all my decades of serving the state, I have never received such passionate and unified messages as I have on this particular topic. Idahoans do not want their public lands sold, period, full stop. Public lands are really part of us. They are really sacred to us. So, any hint that that could happen really raises the ire of Idaho people. And look, it's more than that, it's personal to me. My undergraduate degree was in forestry, with studies in range management and wildlife management. And I did that because I loved the public lands. So, it is very personal to me.

And let me tell you something, the experience we have had in Idaho, and it's, although not widespread, the examples were very concerning to us. For years and years—two-thirds of the State of Idaho is owned by the Federal Government and managed either by the Forest Service or by BLM—and for years and years there were some blocks that were owned by some of the timber companies, most notably was Potlatch and Boise Cascade. They were such great neighbors that you didn't know whether you were on a piece of Forest Service land or whether you were on a piece of their land. But, as you know, they went through the REIT reorganizations, and as a result, those blocks of land changed hands and went into private sector from people outside the state. What we wound up with was gates, fences, no trespassing signs, and I will tell you, this is incredibly upsetting to people who used a piece of land for opening day of elk season, for generations they have set up camp, and now they couldn't.

Now, again, that was not widespread, but it gave us a glimpse as to what could happen, and very possibly would happen, if these lands were sold off. So we're out. We don't want that. We don't want anything to do with that. And I appreciate your stating to me, and I hope you will state it again, publicly, that you understand that the job you are being appointed to regards the management of these public lands, which I think you are very qualified to do. But as far as a wholesale sell-off of that, you have nothing to do about it, no matter what you thought about it, there would be no way you could get this done without the concurrence of the U.S. Congress, which I can tell you, is extremely unlikely at this point.

Your thoughts?

Mr. PEARCE. Thank you, Senator. Again, I appreciate the time that we were able to spend in your office and came away with a very clear understanding of your position. It's one of the points that I made to Senator Heinrich, that when it comes to distribution of land, I look to you all to provide the ground work. You all will know your state. You will know the parcels of land much better than people in Washington. And so that's my commitment to you, that we will work with you, and follow the law completely.

Senator RISCH. Well, we appreciate that. And I would say this, so there is a clear understanding here—isolated parcels that are very small parcels that are sometimes needed for hospitals or for schools or what have you, this Committee, while I have been on it, has approved I think thousands of those sales over the years, but they are very, very small pieces. And I have never seen a wholesale sell-off of a large tract of land. And I know of no suggestions right now that that should happen. So, I appreciate your understanding that you are sent there to manage the land, and this other issue, which is a huge issue, is not one that we are going to have to be worried about at this time. So, with that, thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Senator King.

Senator KING. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Congressman Pearce, I am sure it feels weird to be on that side of the dais, but so far, you're holding up.

Mr. PEARCE. It's a little bit strange, but we're holding up here. Thank you.

Senator KING. You are holding up quite well. Thank you.

I want to change the subject to energy. The public lands, of course, have enormous energy potential in a whole host of areas. My concern is that the administration seems to have made a decision that fossil fuel extraction on public lands is okay, renewables, not so much. In fact, there is now a rule that every renewable project, whether it's wind or solar, has to go directly to the Secretary for his approval. This doesn't apply to fossil plants. The Chairman has made the point in prior hearings, we are facing a two-percent a year increase in demand, which is unprecedented. Compounded in 10 years, that's a 30 percent increase in demand.

How are we going to get there by eliminating a significant source of energy from consideration? And the other side of this question is, how will people feel on your side of the fence in two, four, six, eight years, when it's reversed and all fossil fuel plants have to go through some kind of special extra review that never results in any permits? Do you see what I am saying? I mean, I would be fine if we were talking, okay, we are going to review all projects on public land, but to say we are going to only review renewable plants and not fossil fuels plants strikes me as (a) not in the public interest because we need that electricity, and (b) it establishes a terrible precedent for the federal even-handed regulation, if you will, of energy sources.

Mr. PEARCE. Senator, I appreciate the question. The answer comes down to the fact that I will be working for the President and for the Secretary. That doesn't mean that I won't visit with you, figure out what your issues are and take those and represent them.

Senator KING. Yeah, but you are going to be a policy advisor. You are going to be the head of public lands. And we are talking about development on public lands. I presume somebody is going to ask you your opinion. Do you think it's a good idea to basically say we can do one kind of development on public lands and not another? And by the way, do you know if there is any legal authority for that kind of distinction?

Mr. PEARCE. Well, I am not yet in the position. I don't have access to all the information that's there. It's a conversation I am more than willing to have with you and with the administration, but I don't know the rationale, don't know the law regarding it—be happy to investigate that to its fullest.

Senator KING. Well, one of the problems with this—and you know, the prior administration had different policies—is what I am calling the whiplash effect, where the law and procedure and rules and regulations change dramatically from one administration to the other. And the result of that is, business doesn't have the confidence to invest because when you are talking about a multi-million dollar, perhaps billion-dollar investment in an energy facility, you need to know that the rules will be the same when you get to the end of that process. So, I hope you will take this into consideration. And also, I am going to be pursuing the question of what is the legal authority that the Secretary has to—unto himself this—essentially, a new permitting review for certain kinds of energy projects and not for some others.

Mr. LaCerte, first I want to thank you because you have kept your promise. You have worked on the FERC in the prior months in a bipartisan way. The FERC is working, I think, very effectively. And I think you have met the representations that you made when you were here before.

This energy demand that I mentioned is not only on the capacity side, but it's on the grid side. We are going to need huge investments in the expansion of the capacity of the grid. We need to use the grid more efficiently. The grid is like a church that is built only for Christmas and Easter. There are a lot of empty pews in February and June.

[Laughter.]

Senator KING. And we've got to figure out how to use this thing more efficiently rather than dump in billions of dollars, which are going to go right to the ratepayers. And what I am getting at is, GETs—technologies that will enable us to increase the throughput of the grid without new poles, without new rights-of-way, perhaps reconductoring, but also dynamic line rating. I hope this is a priority for FERC because you said a few minutes ago, and I loved it when you said it, "I represent the ratepayers." And, as you know, transmission and distribution is now 50 percent of most electric bills. I can remember when it was 25 or 30 percent. And it's getting higher.

So, tell me how you feel about GETs?

Mr. LACERTE. Yes, thank you.

First, I sit in the——

Senator KING. That's grid-enhancing technologies. That's what G-E-T-S stands for. Go ahead.

Mr. LACERTE. Thank you, Senator.

You know, I sit in the church pews of FERC every day, much more so than my home pews of my home parish back home, sad to say, but I think you are right. I think we need to squeeze every megawatt of the existing grid that we can, whether that's dynamic line ratings, whether that's grid-enhancing technologies of any type, but I can't endorse one over another. I think we need to do a much better job of being efficient with the grid that we have, in addition to building new transmission. So, you are going to see more from me in those coming months in that regard.

Senator KING. I appreciate that. And I am out of time, but Mr. Haustveit, what I am particularly concerned about is, and you don't have to answer this, we can do it for the record, is cyber. CESER is part of your jurisdiction, and I am very worried. We talked about the gas pipeline. The work I have done in cyber indicates to me the gas pipeline system is quite vulnerable. I can tell you, almost to a certainty, that China, right now, is trying to penetrate those SCADA systems on our gas pipelines. I hope this will be a point of emphasis for you, and you will restore whatever cuts have been made to staff at CESER because you are on the front lines of our country being under attack.

Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator King.

Senator Murkowski.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Gentlemen, thank you for being here this morning, your willingness to serve, appreciate each of you.

Congressman Pearce, I appreciated our meeting several weeks back. It was good to reconnect with you. As I mentioned in my office, when you are confirmed to this position, you are going to be spending a lot of time focusing on Alaska issues, not just because we are special, but because we just have more BLM land than anybody else out there. So, all of my friends talk about what it means in their state—very, very important—but you will find that this is a significant part of your portfolio. So, we are going to be counting on you to help us to restore this balance that we talk about within our land management plans. We had some good news this past week, finally, with the lifting of Public Land Orders 5150 and 5180. So, those are good, but we have got a lot more work to be doing.

For Assistant Secretary Haustveit, I appreciate your willingness to step into this Under Secretary role at DOE. I am sure that you have this aperture, this view of the Department, but I want to reinforce it. It really is about working to commercialize new resources and technologies so that we are always pushing to build out our new supplies. I think we recognize that not everything is going to be perfect, not everything is commercially viable right now, but that's the point, that's why we have the DOE, to help get them there. And so, it doesn't help us when the administration decides that they are going to say, okay, these resources are good, these are bad, they pull their permits, they pull their funding. So, again, it's just, it's pushing on the innovation side.

And then, to you, Commissioner LaCerte, you were just here last fall. You know how strongly I feel about having a full complement at FERC. You guys have a tough job, and you need all of you there. So, we are in a little bit of a different place in Alaska because we don't have the interstate grid, but we have a whole range of FERC issues that we are going to be asking the FERC to weigh in on, and I am hoping to be able to ask a question in that regard.

Let me first turn to you, Congressman Pearce. And there has been a lot of discussion about what's going on with our public lands, but we have been fighting mightily for years now to deliver on promises made to our Alaska Native veterans. At the time of land selections, those who were serving in Vietnam were not able to get their selections. This is going to require not only the opportunity for expanded land availability, but also timely processing along the way, and timely processing requires people. There is so much in the BLM space that just requires you to be able to move permits and do reviews, and when you don't have the men and women that are doing that, it makes it really, really hard to do the job. So, I just, I am going to ask you to commit to prioritizing adequate staffing within the BLM offices. I am looking particularly at the Alaska state offices. You know, we have got a big mandate under the President's day-one Alaska order. But you can't do that as head of BLM unless you have the folks. So, just asking for your commitment on that.

Mr. PEARCE. Senator, I will be happy to commit to work with you. I will be happy to come and visit personally those field offices and to look specifically at the issue of Native American veterans. Like I said in my statement, in 2016 I flew my single-engine small

airplane around the world committing it to those who didn't make it back from Vietnam. I was fortunate enough to come back, but there is still a hole in my heart for those who didn't make it. And I will pay special attention to that issue. I look forward to working with you.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Thank you. I appreciate that. And I invite all of you, each of you, to join us in Alaska. You always learn a lot when you make the trip.

Assistant Secretary, I want to ask you, because there are a couple of offices within the Department of Energy that we pay particular attention to. I have always felt that the Office of Indian Energy can do more in terms of financing tools, leveraging to support rural and Alaska Native communities. Equally important is the Arctic Energy Office. That has been elevated from the Office of Science to now sitting under the purview of S3, which will be you. So, can you share with me, really quickly, your views on the Office of Indian Energy, and what do you think of the Arctic Energy Office? Do you think it's a valuable part of DOE?

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. Senator, thank you for the question.

Absolutely, both offices are critical. We went through a realignment in November and specifically emphasized those offices. So, I am proud to have the opportunity to work with those individuals, if confirmed, to partner with Alaskans, to partner with our Native Americans across the country. There is tremendous opportunity in your state and across the Lower 48 as well.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Good, I look forward to working with you on that.

And then, Mr. Chairman, I do have one quick follow-up for Commissioner LaCerte, and this relates the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline proposal. FERC has already done the work there, but there is a great deal of conversation about the potential for a spur line to the second largest community in the state—that would be Fairbanks—and how FERC can ensure that there is the potential for that. I recognize that I am out of time, and so, I would like to have that conversation with you later, perhaps offline.

Mr. LACERTE. I would love that.

Senator MURKOWSKI. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Murkowski.

Senator Cortez Masto.

Senator CORTEZ MASTO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

To the nominees, congratulations, welcome. Welcome to all your family members here.

Mr. Haustveit, thank you for meeting with me in my office. I appreciate the conversation.

Congressman Pearce, I am probably going to talk mostly to you, and this is why. In Nevada, over 80 percent of the land is managed by the Federal Government, and 63 percent is the BLM. The economic vibrancy of our state relies on a good relationship with the Federal Government, and really clear, immediate answers on management, decisions, working with our state. One of the areas I want to talk to you about is, in Nevada, years ago, we passed the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act—an act and piece of legislation that Secretary Burgum has praised as well. This is

a model for land disposal, like states in the West, where there is a lot of federal land. And what it does is, it prioritizes disposal through a process that targets parcels based on local need and utilizes land sale revenue for conservation, for infrastructure, for recreation, for education in the state in which the land sales took place. I have introduced legislation to expand that disposal boundary to the benefit of my state for economic development, for conservation, for housing, for a number of things.

My question to you is, will you support community-driven legislation like the Southern Nevada Lands bill that facilitates very specific disposal of land identified by local officials for housing and economic development?

Mr. PEARCE. Senator, thanks for the question, but also thanks for the time that you spent in your office. I thought it was very instructive, and it helped me understand a state that's even more federally owned than ours. But yes, I have read the comments coming from you and from the previous Senator about the economic boom that is occurring on land that had very little value in the hands of the Federal Government. And I am not familiar with the expansion that you were talking about, but generally, I would say that I will fall very closely on the issue to where you stand. I just haven't looked at it, I am not familiar. I would be happy to work with you.

Senator CORTEZ MASTO. Based on your experience, though, in New Mexico, in dealing with land from your private—it is important that locals are part of this conversation and that the Federal Government pays attention to local needs and stakeholders, correct?

Mr. PEARCE. It is correct and, in Las Cruces, we are building houses on some of the most fertile Rio Grande Valley land, taking it out of farming use when less than a half mile away, there is just rangeland that is currently unused by the Federal Government. And again, we never got that transition done. We attempted it, but that was just, I think, 40 acres, and we could never get it done. So, I have said multiple times that I will work with every member of the Committee and their state to figure out what makes sense in their state. I don't visualize the Federal Government having the best insight on that.

Senator CORTEZ MASTO. Yes, thank you.

One of the things I didn't get a chance to talk to you about when we were meeting, and the question is pretty simple. We have seen this issue in the State of Nevada, but if a rancher is grazing cattle illegally on federal land, how would you handle that?

Mr. PEARCE. If they are grazing illegally? Oh, I think that the laws will be upheld, and we should dig into that, and again, there are pieces of the agency which deal with that, but I absolutely believe that permission has to be given when a landholder, be it personal or federal, the permission has to be sacred.

Senator CORTEZ MASTO. Thank you.

And then, let me just touch on something Senator King talked about, and think we talked about this as well. In Nevada, we currently produce 41 percent of power through renewable resources, most of that solar. The solar industry in my state is roughly about 30,000 jobs, which is more per-capita than any other industry. It's

about $13.3 billion in investment. The problem we have right now is that Secretary Burgum issued a memo on July 15, 2025 that requires every single permitting decision point from wind or solar projects to be elevated and decided by him. That has essentially frozen all of our projects and stopped solar in the State of Nevada.

Wouldn't you agree that the administration should be evaluating potential public land uses objectively for its highest yield of resources, rather than making a determination on energy preferences?

Mr. PEARCE. Senator, that's a very similar issue to what Senator King brought up, and I am unfamiliar with the order and frankly, have had very little discussion with the Secretary up to this point on any issue, and even less with the President, but I suspect that it's a conversation that we will have. I will seek understanding and be working with you to get your questions specifically on that.

Senator CORTEZ MASTO. Thank you.

And I know I am running out of time, but let me just do one final thing here—resource management plan, statewide. I have been asking the Department for this, for this very reason, because the Federal Government owns so much land, there has to be a partnership and a resource management plan taking into consideration our state, our local stakeholders, our tribes, and working together. I would hope that when you get in this position, you are willing to work with us on updating our resource management plan statewide for the State of Nevada. That is to the best interest of both people in the State of Nevada, but also the Federal Government.

Mr. PEARCE. I think it was Senator Heinrich that mentioned that we had tremendous outreach into every community in the 2nd District of New Mexico, and I would visualize the same effort going into the states. So, you would find me a willing partner on looking at that and working with the local communities because that's the voice that we have got to protect. It's their economy, it's their life, it's their homes, it's their culture, it's their customs, and those are things that I am deeply sensitive to, whether it be Native American land or just your average mountain community or whatever. Yes, I would commit strongly to that.

Senator CORTEZ MASTO. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Senator Daines.

Senator DAINES. Chairman Lee, thank you.

First of all, I want to give a heartfelt thanks to each of you for your willingness to serve in these very important roles, and I truly look forward to working with each of you, once you are confirmed.

Assistant Secretary Haustveit, it's great to have a Butte grad here. As we say back home in Montana, it's not Butte, Montana, it's Butte, America. But you are a graduate of Montana Tech. It's a great institution, and I am really pleased to have a little of that DNA here in Washington.

Congressman Pearce, we served together in the House of Representatives when I first came in as a freshman in 2013. And we served on behalf of two great western states—New Mexico and Montana. During those years that you served in the House, you sponsored a number of natural resources bills, including ones that

sought to serve the interests of tribes, of ranchers, of recreationists. In fact, one of those bills was the Making Public Lands Public Act, which directed a portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund for increasing public access for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting. In fact, in Montana, where we are famous for a lot of things, but the movie, "A River Runs Through It," where Brad Pitt suddenly discovered fly fishing and ruined it for the rest of us.

[Laughter.]

Senator DAINES. Seventy-five percent of our fishing access—and I have had a fly rod in my hand since I was 11 years old from my Grandpa Daines, as a kid growing up in Montana—seventy-five percent of our fishing access sites were funded by LWCF. We have access to these amazing rivers and streams because of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and it has been successfully used to unlock access to public lands that prior were inaccessible due to checkerboard land ownership. Under President Trump, in fact, we permanently authorized and funded LWCF in that very bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act, that many said was the greatest conservation win in 50 years.

My question, Congressman Pearce, if confirmed, will you continue to support expanding hunting, fishing, and recreation access on BLM lands through the LWCF program?

Mr. PEARCE. Absolutely, Senator.

Senator DAINES. Congressman Pearce, we also had a great conversation about the need for forest management when you stopped by my office and the need for reforms as it relates to forest management. BLM manages 1.3 million acres of forest land in Montana and the Dakotas. Yet, simple projects get bogged down in red tape, and sadly, endless litigation. However, we are making progress in helping to remedy that. I have a bill that will fix that Ninth Circuit Court *Cottonwood* decision. It has passed this Committee now by voice, so, we have really strong bipartisan support, and it's included in the Fix our Forests Act.

Congressman Pearce, do you agree that we need to increase the pace and the scale of forest management on BLM lands and pass reforms like the Cottonwood fix, the Root and Stem Act, as well as the Fix our Forests Act?

Mr. PEARCE. Absolutely, Senator. And in New Mexico, we had a forest in my district. It was about a million acres, and they were cleaning up and taking out the fuels for like 500 acres a year. With a million acres, you would never get to the end. And I visited with members of both sides of the aisle about the need to go in and aggressively begin to remove the fuels. If we do that, then we are going to increase the water supply in the West, which is always a problem. Every tree uses a certain amount of water that should be percolating down into the aquifers, recharging the streams and rivers and springs. And so, those large-scale thinning projects of tens of thousands of acres instead of hundreds of acres is something that I visualize. But I would also say that it's going to take the backing of this Committee to do those large projects because it's a very sensitive political issue. I understand that. People say we are going to go clear-cut. I never think we are going to do that, but we do need to aggressively thin.

Senator DAINES. We have watched the remarkable outcomes from proper thinning in our forests—you know, these trees are a bunch of straws in the ground. They are pulling water out. And you thin them out and then the trees remaining grow a lot faster. Suddenly, you see springs that you never knew existed are refurbished. It's quite remarkable what happens to the ecosystem when we do proper forest management—wildlife habitat, not to mention reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, and by the way, jobs for loggers in our sawmills as well, which is also an endangered species now in Montana. When I was a kid growing up, we had 30 active sawmills. We are down to just a handful because of the loss of access in many ways to our forests.

Mr. PEARCE. We have experienced the same thing in southern New Mexico. And again, a raging fire was on the Lincoln National Forest up near Ruidoso. The Mescalero Indians have a forest that butts right up against it and that raging fire dropped down and became a grass fire because the Mescaleros had cleaned theirs. They had to go through the same rules, same laws, and they were able to do it. And so, these are the things that cause local communities to say there is hope when they see members of the Senate on both sides saying let's get after it and let's start cleaning up our environment.

Senator DAINES. Yes. I am out of time here, but it is encouraging. This is becoming increasingly a very bipartisan issue——

Mr. PEARCE. It's very bipartisan.

Senator DAINES [continuing]. To address this because fire knows no boundaries, as we know.

I have a few more questions, but I will submit those for the record.

Mr. Chairman, thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Daines.

Senator Padilla.

Senator PADILLA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank both you and Ranking Member Heinrich for organizing this hearing.

Mr. Pearce, I appreciate the time we were able to spend in my office just yesterday. I am going to echo some of the concerns and sentiments that some of my colleagues have raised about public lands. And it is bipartisan. I know Senator Risch, especially, was passionate earlier in the hearing today. From a California perspective, the Bureau of Land Management manages nearly 15 percent of California's landmass. So, it's critical for us that BLM and the BLM Director maintain these lands for future generations to enjoy and not just knee-jerk sell them to the highest bidder.

These BLM lands in California include Chuckwalla National Monument. For years, I worked with numerous tribal leaders who led the effort to protect the natural resources in that area and to promote access to what is now Chuckwalla. It was a thoughtfully crafted proposal, as you and I discussed in my office, that took into account the input from stakeholders, conservationists, energy developers, utilities, tribal leaders, hunters, recreation groups, and others, and we ended up with universal local support from the state and bipartisan support here in the Senate and from Congress. As a result, as one of the outcomes of that, five tribes have even

formed an inter-tribal commission to solidify their enduring commitment to protecting sacred lands in Chuckwalla.

My question is clear and simple, Mr. Pearce: if confirmed, are you committed to honoring these monument designations, yes or no?

Mr. PEARCE. Yes.

Senator PADILLA. Thank you. That's a great answer. Short, clear, concise, and on the record. And I appreciate your support for maintaining these protections, and please know that I also want to work with you to arrange a meeting with you and the members of the inter-tribal commission so you can learn more about Chuckwalla. I don't expect you to be an expert on day one. Is that a meeting that you are willing to commit to, should you be confirmed?

Mr. PEARCE. Say that again, Senator?

Senator PADILLA. The meeting with the inter-tribal commission that has been formed now that the monument designation has been finalized.

Mr. PEARCE. Senator, as a Representative of southern New Mexico, we had multiple pueblos. We had Apache Tribes and we had Navajos. We worked extremely closely with all of those to accomplish objectives they were looking for on their lands. I would visualize a very similar—the Native Americans sometimes are overlooked from Washington and——

Senator PADILLA. Not just sometimes, far too often.

Mr. PEARCE. We became a voice for them and would continue to do that.

Senator PADILLA. Right. And we talked about meaningful, substantive consultation, not just the checking of a box that has happened so much over the course of history.

Mr. PEARCE. Absolutely.

Senator PADILLA. My next question is for Mr. LaCerte. FERC has taken action to speed up large-load interconnections to the existing grid. While load flexibility and co-location can be valuable tools for maximizing the use of our existing grid, there are no substitutes for smart transmission investment to ensure future reliability. Tell me if you disagree. The way I see it, to be smart, you need a plan. So, as electricity demand continues to rise, do you believe that FERC should continue to support long-term, regional transmission planning?

Mr. LACERTE. Absolutely. Far too often in the past, I think, we probably could have tightened some screws with some of the plannings that have been done, both interregionally and at the state level themselves. I think that it's important that we squeeze every possible watt out of the existing grid that we have. And that means more diligence, more proper planning, and taking a harder look at all the decisions before us.

Senator PADILLA. Thank you for that. I know I have less than a minute left here. Let me just say, I will be submitting a couple of additional questions for the record to each of you, and I want to register that one of those questions and concerns will be staffing cuts. You know, serving under an administration, whether it's through the budget process or through the DOGE process last year, there have been funding cuts in a whole lot of places of the Federal Government and staffing cuts in a whole lot of places of the Fed-

eral Government, with increasing demand on the services and guidance that these departments and agencies are meant to provide. How are we supposed to achieve that going forward with limited resources? So, I look forward to an ongoing conversation with you.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Cassidy.

Senator CASSIDY. Thank you.

Mr. Haustveit, Louisiana has a big Meta AI center in Northeast Louisiana, but there is one just announced with Amazon in Northwest Louisiana. In both cases, both companies have committed to building the sufficient power generation so as to not raise rates. The President, in his State of the Union, said again, we should not be raising rates and said that these data centers should. How do you ensure that? Number one, how do you make sure that they actually are carrying their weight, if you will? Number two, there is going to be a lot of transmission line upgrade required for this. And so, the second part of this is, how do we get that permitting through so that, as they do carry their weight in terms of generation, we have the transmission capability to make it happen?

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. Thank you for the question, Senator.

On the first one, we have a President who is an incredible dealmaker, so he has already negotiated the deals with the largest hyperscalers. The deals that he highlighted in the State of the Union last night focused on not only bringing their own power to provide what they need for their hyperscalers, but more than enough, so that we can have a downward price pressure for residential consumers. So, working with the developers is key. We need to win the AI race. These AI data centers and power generation builds provide incredible jobs.

Senator CASSIDY. No, I accept that, so, if it's behind the meter, then you are going to have sufficient generation, but sometimes they are going to have to transmit electrons from, say, the Panhandle of Oklahoma to Northwest Louisiana. And that's going to require transmission lines. Transmission has been very difficult to get done. Any thoughts on that?

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. Yes, Senator, I appreciate the question. It depends on where we are at. There are different solutions for different regions, but the same dealmaking that the President has done for power generation will be done for transmission as well. The President is committed to avoiding putting any upward pressure on rates to consumers due to data centers. We want to support the buildout without——

Senator CASSIDY. I accept that, but I will go back to the practical nature. It has been very difficult to get large transmission lines done. I mean, it can take a decade or more, I am told.

Mr. LaCerte, any thoughts on that?

Mr. LACERTE. Yes, absolutely. I think we could probably talk for weeks on end about this issue.

Senator CASSIDY. I have two minutes left.

[Laughter.]

Mr. LACERTE. First and foremost, I think we have to give flexibilities to the entities that have earned the trust and respect to have those flexibilities. We need to build procedural safeguards in place to make sure the consumers are protected. And that's why,

within my first two months on the job, we committed to an order within PJM which allows for new transmission, the first transmission services over the past 20 years, called "firm and non-firm co-located demand". So, I think it only makes sense that if we have a load that is in proximity to the generator, that's going to reduce the amount of transmission that is required to serve that load. So, it's a partnership with the states.

Senator CASSIDY. I get that, but if you have load which is distant from the user, then we are going to need that transmission line, and that has been really hard to do.

Mr. LACERTE. It has been really hard to do, but it has been thrown out of whack many times because of the early retirement of baseload power and the overreliance of renewables. That's why we have many areas in the country which transmit load over a large square mileage. I think that increases the cost because you have to build that high-capacity transmission from one area to another. I think it is vitally important for seams, as we are going, especially in the West and into California within SPP, but co-locating load makes practical sense.

Senator CASSIDY. I accept that.

Mr. LACERTE. And I understand it's on a re-hearing, I can't get too much into the order, but that's a vital step in the right direction.

Senator CASSIDY. Mr. Haustveit, on a different topic, the Supreme Court seems to have closed the door on EPA tariffs, but clearly the President wants to continue to use tariffs to protect American businesses and American workers. And if you look, countries like China arbitrage or ignore environmental laws to lower the cost of manufacturing, as much as by 20 percent. Our manufacturers move there, we lose the jobs, but the pollution blows over on our country. So, I proposed the Foreign Pollution Fee that would be roughly equal to the avoided cost of complying with environmental regulations to be tacked on to any good which is polluting coming from a place like China. Any thoughts on that?

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. Senator, first, the President's tariff plan has been wildly successful. We have met with countless companies who have told us——

Senator CASSIDY. I accept that. I've got a minute left. I have 30 seconds.

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. They've told us that they are building here because of that. So, I think the President is solving the solution by reindustrializing in the United States. So, I hope that your plan is a moot point and we industrialize in the United States, we build what we need——

Senator CASSIDY. But it seems like those tariffs have been part of what has incentivized them to build here, but now the tariffs are gone. Again, I am promoting a congressional tool to give to the President that would stand up in court but give business the kind of certainty as to what the tariffs would be.

I am out of time. I will just say, Steve Pearce, good to see you, man, and you have got my vote.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Gallego.

Senator GALLEGO. Thank you, Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich, and thank you to our witnesses for being here.

Thank you, Congressman Pearce, for coming by my office yesterday. I had a little hiccup with day care, and you were very accommodating, considering my daughter was running around like crazy, as usual, but, you know, you have heard it from some of our western states today, and I will give the stat that everyone else has, you know, we have 12.1 million acres of BLM land. We are very, very lucky to have such a beautiful state—the most beautiful in the country. And within this land, we have national monuments that highlight, you know, the beauty and the culture of the state, too. Of course, one of the ones that we always talk about is the Grand Canyon and the ancestral footprints of such. And so, because it has already been asked, but I have to do it as a home-stater, because this has been somewhat controversial, which, when it comes to the Grand Canyon monument, that has been ping-ponging back and forth, I would love to make sure that, you know, there is still going to be support for that and would like to know if you have any plans to roll back protections for the Grand Canyon?

Mr. PEARCE. Thank you, Senator, for the question. And I did enjoy the visit yesterday, and the day care thing rings heavy, and is nice.

Senator GALLEGO. Yes.

Mr. PEARCE. So the monuments are something I do support deeply and I understand the Grand Canyon, it's one of the most magnificent things, frankly, in the world. So, we will do whatever we can to work with you any way that is necessary on that.

Senator GALLEGO. Great. Thanks.

And this administration has announced an initiative to build housing on federal lands, with very little detail, and I think, done smartly, especially for rural Arizona, it can be done in a way that could be very good to help with the costs, but after the announcement, I actually asked the President and his administration for details on that because I want to make sure what doesn't happen is that the best lands get given away to the richest men and women and they end up being, you know, estates for them and then we stop, you know, our communities from being able to access land that is important for fishing, hunting, and camping, because that's usually the land that is the closest to the cities, but then it's also land that's most likely to be valuable. So, I want to make sure that, you know, anything going forward, I want it to be thoughtful. I want to make sure that it actually is, you know, accessible to working-class people.

So, I just want to make sure, once you—should you get in there, will you commit to providing the answers for these types of questions or inquiries, especially from U.S. Senators?

Mr. PEARCE. Absolutely, Senator, and I mentioned a couple times today that, on those issues of use of public lands in your state, I really look forward to working with each individual Senator, that each state is going to be different. Then, as far as access and working-class people—my dad was kind of at the lowest level of the oil field. We had a five-acre farm, and with six kids, we literally sold vegetables on the highway to make things meet. The only thing we

had to do for vacation was the drive up to Cloudcroft and go through that national forest. That was our vacation——

Senator GALLEGO. That is very true for a lot of people in Arizona, too. So, you know, for me, it's important that BLM lands, especially the ones closest to the cities, are not sold off, you know, potentially as trophy homes to billionaires. So, what I am trying to communicate to you is that I want to make sure that doesn't happen, and that you will do everything in your power to make sure that doesn't happen.

Lastly, you know, as a veteran, many of us use our public lands as, basically, public therapy, if you want to call it that, right? It's a great way to de-stress. It's a great way to think about what's going on in our lives. A lot of us will go camping together. BLM land is often the front yard for rural veteran communities. So, how will you measure BLM's success in recreation and community benefit, not just production, such as metrics like leases, whether it's mineral leases or grazing leases?

Mr. PEARCE. Again, I experienced the same thing you are talking about when I got back from Vietnam—backpacking in California, some of the wilderness areas in the Gila, exactly what you are talking about. And I think that access is the key, and some public lands don't have very good access. My brother is in a wheelchair. President Bush put him on the Commission for Handicapped Access, especially to our parks. I was co-chair of the National Park Subcommittee. We dealt with that issue a lot, and so access is extremely important to me, for everyone, and especially talking about aging populations—they just, they have to be able to get there if they are going to enjoy it.

Senator GALLEGO. Thank you. I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Hoeven.

Senator HOEVEN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Assistant Secretary Haustveit, in 2000, North Dakota produced about 100,000 barrels of oil a day, and it was going down. We went to work. We cracked the code on the shale play. We drove it up to 1.5 million barrels a day. And now, we are back down. Now, it's starting to decline down. We are at about 1.1 million barrels of oil a day. So, we need to crack the code again, this time with enhanced oil recovery, and if we can do it by taking CO_2 from our coal-fired electric plants, we also double the life of those coal plants and give them a new revenue source. We passed 45Q, a tax credit, to help do that and use that CO_2 for enhanced oil recovery. We have pulled about 5.7 billion barrels out of the ground, out of the shale now, the Bakken shale. We think we can easily double that. We are only getting about 10 percent of the oil.

So, there is incredible potential here. If we can do it in the Bakken, then they can do it in the other shale plays around the country. Tell me now, what can DOE do to make that happen—Crack the Code 2.0?

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. Senator, as we have spent hours talking about this, it's something I am passionate about. It's the top priority in our oil and gas office, absolutely. Leaving these resources behind with only 10 percent of the resource extracted is irresponsible. It's not being a good steward of these resources we have been blessed with. So, the way that we can help, it's multi-pronged. Some of it

is through applied research at our national labs to make sure we understand what we deploy, how we deploy, from the chemistry that we blend with, the CO_2, or surfactants, or rich gas, to the metallurgy that those gases are coming in contact with, and through our funding mechanisms. It's extremely important that we pilot these technologies at scale, in the field, as soon as we possibly can to give them the best chance of success. We need to be thoughtful in transitioning these ideas from laboratory, to field development, to full scale, like we did in the Bakken—commercial development. So, industry takes it and scales it, as we know they can.

Senator HOEVEN. Right, and we know we can do it technologically. The key is getting it to commercial viability, right? And that's right in DOE's wheelhouse, isn't it? So, this is an incredibly big deal. I know Secretary Wright understands it, I know Secretary Danly understands it, and I know you understand it. So that's why I am very excited about your leadership at DOE.

Now, somewhat related, but I think in an interesting way, we are also looking at using a lot of that oil and gas infrastructure to see if we can't do some exciting new things with geothermal. And so, talk to me about what you see as the potential—also, I mean, again, we are using existing resources and we are using them in new and creative ways, better environmental stewardship and a lot more energy and we need electricity and we need, you know, transportation fuels. We need all of it. So, what about geothermal? What can we do there?

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. So, the Williston Basin has one of the higher thermal gradients for an oil and gas reservoir. It's not as high as our friends out in the West where they've cooked off——

Senator HOEVEN. You mean like places like New Mexico or Utah, those kinds of places?

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. It's a little hotter.

Senator HOEVEN. It's exciting for them, you know, just if anybody were——

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. But also, what we have going for us in North Dakota is, geothermal is all about a "delta T"—a differential in temperature. And as you know, it's not always warm in North Dakota. So, the produced fluid doesn't have to be as hot to get the same benefit in terms of the differential between the produced fluid and the ambient temperature. That's where we extract the energy from the fluid and convert it to electrons.

Senator HOEVEN. And what kind of initiatives? What are you all looking at to help do that?

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. Just this morning we announced the largest ever funding opportunity for geothermal, with two topic areas. One is what I talked about earlier, with CO_2, but now for geothermal—field pilots. We need people that drill real wells to go to the field and demonstrate these projects at scale. And the other one is to characterize. North Dakota does not have to do a whole lot of characterization work. With tens of thousands of wells, you know your subsurface better than almost anywhere in the world. Areas in the West, where there are very few vertical penetrations because there is no existing production, we need to go collect that subsurface information so we know where the highest quality resource exists.

Senator HOEVEN. Yeah, and our Energy and Environmental Research Center at the University of North Dakota can be very helpful with that. And I would also think, as you mentioned, the national labs have a really great role to play here, too. So, this is about American innovation and ingenuity that can create incredible new energy opportunities. Would you agree?

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. Absolutely.

Senator HOEVEN. And you are certainly committed to working on those things with the members of this Committee?

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. Absolutely, Senator, yes.

Senator HOEVEN. Thank you.

Mr. HAUSTVEIT. Thank you.

Senator HOEVEN. Mr. LaCerte, thank you for your good work on FERC. I support it. I support you, and I appreciate it. You play an important role and you are knowledgeable, thoughtful, and good about communicating with us. So, I want to thank you for that.

Mr. LACERTE. Thank you, Senator.

Senator HOEVEN. Mr. Pearce, I don't know how somebody can bring a better background to the job than you, not to mention your incredible service to this nation in Vietnam. So, if there is anything you want to put on the record, go ahead, but I am just thrilled that people like you will step up and serve.

Mr. PEARCE. Thank you, Senator, appreciate that.

Senator HOEVEN. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Hoeven, there will be a thermodynamics test for members at the end of the hearing, if you want to stick around.

[Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Hickenlooper.

Senator HICKENLOOPER. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, all three of you, for being here.

Colorado is deeply invested, emotionally, in our public lands. It's not just the $17 billion in our outdoor recreation industry, but it's a sense of connection to our history, to our identity, what it means to be a Coloradan.

I have a couple questions. You know, Mr. Pearce, and we talked a little bit on the phone about this—when there was talk of selling off large amounts of public lands recently, we had over 80,000 Coloradans reach out to say that they were against any large-scale selling of public lands. And we know that there are existing ways, and towns across the West are getting little bits of BLM lands here or there for buildings. But there has been a huge outwelling of people concerned about your nomination over many of the things that you have said around selling public lands. I know Senator Wyden, I watched his questions as well, and you said you would follow the direction of Congress. But I think, oftentimes, someone in your position influences Congress. And I guess the question is, are you free of those past comments? And I can read back several where you supported the widespread sale of public lands, either to pay down the deficit or to get money for education or whichever reason. Is that something you really can renounce and feel that if you were being asked by Congress to provide input, what would you say?

Mr. PEARCE. I appreciate, number one, the conversation, the time that you took a couple of days ago. That was very instructive, and I appreciate that. As far as the large-scale sale of land, I think the Secretary has been very clear. FLPMA prohibits any large-scale sale by the Director. And so, it would be at the Secretary level, and he said, and I would intend to follow his lead on that, that there won't be any large-scale sale of lands.

Senator HICKENLOOPER. But if you were asked by Congress your opinion, do you still feel that would be your own personal opinion that it would be an efficient and useful process to be able to sell-off more of that land? If Congress was asking, they might change such a statute.

Mr. PEARCE. Well, that, Senator, is kind of a multi-dimensional question. Sometimes the eastern states don't understand the role of PILT, and they begin to suggest that PILT should be taken away, that it's welfare to the West, and those conversations then take a whole different tack on the issue.

Senator HICKENLOOPER. Well, but if you were asked to sell—say, to pay PILT—to sell public lands, again, I don't think there would be any question. The people that are calling us and are so concerned about your nomination, that would not be a reason to suddenly begin selling lands?

Mr. PEARCE. That's not a position that I will take, but also, it's a position that's not even allowed by the Director. And I have indicated multiple times today that I will work with the members of the Committee on the land in their state—that I think that's where the best insight is going to come from on what to do with public lands.

Senator HICKENLOOPER. You know, one of our people calling into my office reminded me of something I had said—I have said it multiple times—when someone reveals themself, do you believe them? And I think there's a lot of distrust and you are going to have to work very hard to dispel that.

I also wanted to ask a question about methane. You know, the BLM's methane waste prevention rule back in 2017 allowed us to conserve gas that otherwise would have been vented or flared. It's common sense, but when I was Governor of Colorado, we actually sat down with the oil and gas industry and the environmental community and we spent a year and a half creating concise, efficient regulations that did everything possible to make sure that we did not put those harmful pollutants into the air and that we were able to get maximum benefit from them. And yet, now we see that the administration is trying to roll back the current rule that prevents methane waste on public lands. And I think we have already proven that the energy sector can get behind dealing with this. Why are we trying to, you know, pull that back?

Mr. PEARCE. Senator, I am not familiar with the discussions that are going on right now. I have had very limited contact——

Senator HICKENLOOPER. Well, let's say, would you support high standards, you know, in terms of methane waste prevention? Would you support that kind of, you know, public operation on public lands?

Mr. PEARCE. One of the things that I am just remotely familiar with since getting nominated is that there is a very large attempt

to gather methane in particular fields and use it to generate data centers. In other words, using that methane in a productive fashion, that's something I would be very supportive of.

Senator HICKENLOOPER. Of course, but I am talking about rolling back the existing regulations that are in place.

Mr. PEARCE. Again, I am not familiar with the reasons that the administration would be suggesting. I would be happy to look at it. I am happy to investigate it, but I don't know that I could comment on it right now.

Senator HICKENLOOPER. Okay, thank you, appreciate it. I yield back to the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Senator Hickenlooper.

All right, I want to thank the witnesses for being here today, for answering our questions.

A couple of housekeeping items before the end of the hearing. I want to ask consent to enter into the record 18 letters of support for Congressman Pearce, signed by 30 different groups. They range from the Navajo Nation to the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts.

Hearing no objection, those will be admitted into the record.

[Letters of support for Mr. Pearce follow:]

American Exploration &
Mining Association

10 N Post St. Ste. 305 | Spokane WA 99201-0705
P. 509.624.1158 | F. 509.623.1241
info@miningamerica.org | www.miningamerica.org

February 23, 2025

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
United States Senate Committee on
Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
United States Senate Committee on
Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: AEMA Letter of Support for the Nomination of the Honorable Stevan Pearce to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

On behalf of the 1,800 members of the American Exploration & Mining Association (AEMA), we urge your support for the appointment of Stevan Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Mr. Pearce is highly qualified for this position, having served for 14 years in the House of Representatives representing New Mexico's Second U.S. Congressional District. This is a district with large swaths of federal land, with natural resource-based businesses, industries and constituents who rely on those lands for their livelihoods. As a result, we believe Mr. Pearce is intimately familiar with the issues he will face as BLM director.

AEMA had the opportunity to work with Mr. Pearce many times in his tenure in the House. He has a deep understanding of the value of multiple uses on public lands, and we have found him to be intelligent, principled and perceptive. As a westerner, he will restore a commonsense approach to the agency and all its functions. While much has been reported on his background in the oil and gas industry, we have experienced someone who has learned a great deal about multiple-use from many perspectives. Mr. Pearce works incredibly hard, and is very well-suited for the position. We urge your support and a swift confirmation.

AEMA is a 131-year-old national association representing the minerals industry with members residing in 46 U.S. states. AEMA is the recognized national voice for exploration, the junior mining sector, and maintaining access to public lands. We represent the entire mining lifecycle, from exploration to reclamation and closure. Our members work closely with BLM to responsibly develop the minerals or society requires, and once our projects are finished, we reclaim and restore the land for future generations to safely enjoy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Compton
Executive Director

February 24, 2026

The Hon. Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Hon. Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of Steve Pearce to Serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

We write to express our strong support for the nomination of Former Congressman Steve Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and we respectfully urge the Committee to advance his nomination and facilitate timely consideration and confirmation by the Senate.

As trade associations representing America's oil and natural gas producers and the broader upstream energy sector, we recognize the central role that the BLM plays in administering the federal onshore oil and gas program and managing the federal mineral estate. Leadership of this agency is critical to ensuring that the Department of the Interior (DOI) can effectively carry out its statutory multiple-use mission while supporting responsible energy development, economic growth, and national security.

The BLM oversees approximately 245 million acres of public lands and manages the subsurface mineral estate underlying roughly 700 million acres nationwide. Decisions made by the agency directly impact domestic energy production, state and local revenues, tribal communities, grazing permittees, recreationists, and countless small businesses across the West. Given the breadth and complexity of this mission, it is essential that the agency be led by an individual with both policy experience and firsthand knowledge of the industries and communities affected by BLM decisions. Former Congressman Pearce brings that unique combination of experience.

Prior to his service in Congress, Congressman Pearce built and operated a successful oilfield services company in southeastern New Mexico, providing him with practical, real-world insight into the operational realities of energy development. His background in the upstream sector ensures that he understands the importance of regulatory certainty, timely permitting, and durable land management decisions grounded in statute and sound science.

During his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Pearce served on the House Natural Resources Committee and held leadership roles on subcommittees with jurisdiction over public lands and energy and mineral resources. In those roles, he worked extensively on issues directly affecting the BLM's land use planning, leasing programs, and resource management responsibilities. He also represented a district encompassing significant federal lands and portions of the Permian Basin, giving him direct familiarity with the one of the most active intersections today of federal land policy and energy production.

The BLM Director provides critical leadership across the agency, ensuring consistency, accountability, and responsiveness in decisions that affect the nation's energy and mineral resources. At a time when the federal onshore program must balance conservation, recreation, grazing, and responsible development, Senate-confirmed leadership is indispensable. A confirmed Director is better positioned to provide clear direction to career staff, coordinate effectively with DOI leadership, and ensure that agency actions are durable and defensible.

We believe Congressman Pearce's experience in both the private sector and Congress equips him to lead the BLM in a manner consistent with its statutory multiple-use mandate. His understanding of the economic importance of federal lands, particularly in energy-producing states, will be invaluable in ensuring that the agency operates efficiently, transparently, and in accordance with congressional intent. We respectfully urge the Committee to advance Mr. Pearce's nomination and to facilitate timely consideration by the full Senate.

Thank you for your continued leadership on issues affecting America's public lands and energy resources. We stand ready to serve as a resource to the Committee as it considers this nomination.

Sincerely,

Wendy Kirchoff
Senior Vice President of Policy
American Exploration & Production Council (AXPC)

Pete Obermueller
President
Petroleum Association of Wyoming

Brook A. Simmons
President
The Petroleum Alliance of Oklahoma

Kristin Whitman
Senior Vice President of Government Relations
American Petroleum Institute (API)

Melissa M. Simpson
President
Western Energy Alliance

Missi Currier
President and CEO
New Mexico Oil & Gas Association (NMOGA)

Daniel T. Naatz
Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer
Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA)

Ryan Steadley
Vice President of Regulatory Affairs
Colorado Oil & Gas Association (COGA)

Rikki Hrenko-Browning
President
Utah Petroleum Association

Steve Wackowski
President and CEO
Alaska Oil and Gas Association

900 S. Pavilion Center Dr, Suite 155
Las Vegas, NV 89144

November 25, 2025

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

I am the Managing Partner of Arevia Power, a leading developer of energy projects and data centers on public lands, and I am writing to express our strong support for the nomination of Steve Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Arevia has developed over two gigawatts of energy projects on BLM lands. We believe that our country must expand all forms of reliable and affordable energy production to improve the lives of all Americans and to win the AI race. We do our part by producing American power with natural gas and solar generation.

As a company that develops projects on federal lands, we recognize the critical importance of effective leadership at the BLM. Mr. Pearce's extensive background in energy policy and his understanding of the unique challenges facing Western states make him exceptionally well-qualified to lead the Bureau. His long-standing commitment to responsible resource management, economic development, and energy diversification will bring much-needed stability and direction.

Throughout his distinguished career in Congress, Mr. Pearce demonstrated a forward-thinking approach to energy policy. His statement that "the Southwestern United States is the Saudi Arabia of solar energy" captures a vision Arevia Power fully shares, which is one where public lands are an important resource in efforts to provide clean, affordable, and reliable American energy.

We appreciate Mr. Pearce's consistent advocacy for a balanced energy strategy that embraces all viable technologies. This approach reflects a deep understanding that America's energy future relies

AREVIA POWER

on innovation to ensure energy security, support rural economies, and protect environmental resources.

We respectfully urge the Committee to act quickly so that the Senate can confirm Steve Pearce to this important role. The BLM's leadership is critical to advancing infrastructure projects that create jobs, increase tax revenue, and provide abundant, reliable, and affordable energy. At this pivotal moment for U.S. energy policy, timely confirmation of Mr. Pearce is essential.

Thank you for your consideration and for your prompt attention to this critical nomination.

Respectfully,
Mark Boyadjian

Managing Partner
Arevia Power

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
U.S. Senate
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Chairman

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
U.S. Senate
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Ranking Member

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich,

The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) writes to express our support for Steve Pearce to serve as the next Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). We believe that Mr. Pearce has a deep understanding of the pressing issues facing sportsmen and women, fish and wildlife, and our outdoor heritage.

While serving as a Representative in the U.S. Congress, Mr. Pearce was an active and committed member of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), including serving as CSC Vice-Chair. While serving in Congress, he helped to promote science-based wildlife management, enhanced conservation, and ensured the future of our time-honored traditions of hunting, fishing, trapping, and recreational shooting. He also was a longstanding member of the House Natural Resources Committee, an experience that will serve him well as the Director of the BLM.

Mr. Pearce was a steadfast champion of the Making Public Lands Public (MPLP) Act, which was a top priority for CSF and many in the sporting-conservation community. The Making Public Lands Public Act became law with overwhelming bipartisan support in 2019 as part of the Dingell Act. Additionally, Mr. Pearce was a strong supporter of the Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE Act). While the SHARE Act unfortunately never became law, many of the provisions contained in the bill did, including Public Lands Filming, Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act, among others.

Further, the BLM manages more public lands than any other Federal agency and these lands are vital to our public land hunters, anglers, trappers, and recreational shooters. These same BLM lands serve a critical role as big game winter habitats and migration corridors and primary habitat for numerous other game species. The BLM needs a confirmed Director who understands this importance. Equally important to CSF, Mr. Pearce consistently made himself available while

serving in Congress and was willing to engage in thoughtful, collaborative discussions with sportsmen and women, including on challenging policy discussions. We have no reason to doubt he will not take a similar approach toward CSF and other sportsmen's organizations if confirmed.

Sincerely,

Taylor Schmitz

Taylor Schmitz
Senior Vice President
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

THIS MARK MATTERS. DFA Dairy Farmers of America

January 21, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich

On behalf of Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. (DFA), I write to express support for the appointment of former Representative Steve Pearce to lead the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). His experience in Congress has prepared him to navigate the complex agency and its regulatory framework.

DFA is a national dairy marketing cooperative that serves and is owned by 9,500 dairy farmers on nearly 5,000 farms. Reflective of the U.S. dairy industry, our farmer-owners are diverse, located in nearly every state and on every type of operation. As the nation's most diverse manufacturer of dairy products, with 82 processing facilities across 33 states and supported by nearly 19,000 employees, we take seriously our responsibility to provide safe, high-quality, sustainable, and nutritious milk and other dairy products to consumers around the country.

Representative Pearce brings a valuable combination of firsthand land-use experience, legislative knowledge, and deep respect for the people who live and work on public lands. Throughout his public service, he has demonstrated a consistent commitment to balancing responsible conservation with the economic realities of rural America—an approach that is essential to the mission of the BLM.

As a longtime advocate for ranchers, farmers, energy producers, and rural communities, Representative Pearce understands that public lands policy cannot be developed in isolation from those most directly affected by it. His leadership reflects a practical understanding of grazing, energy development, recreation, and conservation, and how each can coexist when managed with transparency, science, and common sense.

He would strengthen the agency's ability to fulfill its multiple-use mandate while ensuring public lands remain productive, accessible, and well-managed for future generations. I respectfully urge consideration of Representative Steve Pearce for this role and support his appointment to lead the Bureau of Land Management.

Sincerely,

Walter Bradley

Walter Bradley
Former Lt. Governor of New Mexico
Director of Government & Business Relations

1405 N. 98th St.• Kansas City, KS 66111
P +1 816-801-6455

February 3, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
204 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich,

On behalf of the Family Farm Alliance (Alliance), we appreciate the opportunity to support the nomination of Steve Pearce to be the next Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The Alliance is a grassroots organization of family farmers, ranchers, irrigation districts, and allied industries in 16 Western states. Our mission is to ensure the availability of reliable, affordable irrigation water supplies for Western agriculture. We are also committed to the fundamental proposition that Western irrigated agriculture must be preserved and protected for its economic, environmental, social, and national security benefits.

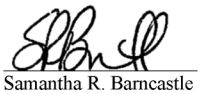
BLM plays a critical role in the management of public lands that are foundational to Western agriculture, irrigation systems, and rural economies. Family farmers, ranchers, and irrigation districts depend on predictable, agriculture-focused management of these lands to sustain food production, maintain water infrastructure, and support the long-term viability of working landscapes across the West. Decisions made by BLM directly affect watershed planning, water infrastructure, grazing operations, land access, and the ability of family farms and ranches to operate with certainty and stability. Disruptions to access, permitting, or infrastructure maintenance can have immediate and severe consequences for agricultural operations and rural communities. Effective leadership at BLM requires a practical understanding of water management and use in the West, collaboration with local stakeholders, and respect for the working landscapes that sustain our farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

Mr. Pearce brings extensive public service experience and a practical understanding of the challenges facing Western communities that depend on federal lands for agriculture, water delivery, and economic stability. Throughout his career, he has worked on complex land and water issues and has experience engaging with a range of stakeholders, navigating complex land and water issues, and promoting regulatory certainty for those who rely on federal land management decisions to operate viable agricultural businesses. We believe his background reflects an understanding of the importance of maintaining productive working lands while ensuring responsible stewardship of public resources.

The Family Farm Alliance believes Mr. Pearce has the experience to bring professionalism, integrity, and practical leadership to the Bureau of Land Management. His nomination comes at a critical moment for Western land and water management, as producers face increasing regulatory complexity and uncertainty. We believe Mr. Pearce could be well positioned to advance BLM's mission in a manner that supports rural communities, protects agricultural livelihoods, and upholds responsible multiple use of public lands grounded in on-the-ground realities.

The Family Farm Alliance respectfully urges your careful consideration of Mr. Pearce's nomination. Please do not hesitate to reach via email to samantha@familyfarmalliance.org if you have any questions or require any further information.

Sincerely,



Samantha R. Barncastle
Executive Director
Family Farm Alliance

MERRION
OIL & GAS

February 3, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich;

On behalf of Merrion Oil & Gas, I am writing to express our full and unwavering support for Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

During his 14 years representing New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, Mr. Pearce built strong partnerships across diverse stakeholder groups including businesses, community organizations, ranchers, farmers, tribal nations, conservation organizations, and individual citizens. His congressional experience provides him with valuable insight into the legislative process and stakeholder engagement that will inform his leadership of the Bureau of Land Management.

The Bureau of Land Management plays a vital role in managing and developing our nation's water, energy, and mineral resources that are critical to America's long-term future prosperity. The BLM plays an outsized role in the west where decisions, made both on the ground and in Washington, D.C., affect local employment, energy security, domestic food production, hunting and fishing access, outdoor recreation opportunities, timber harvesting, mining operations, and critical mineral supplies.

The mission of the Merrion Oil & Gas is to support the safe, efficient, practical, sustainable, and environmentally sound management and monetization of our energy, mineral and natural resource resources. We utilize the tools of social, environmental, and commercial responsibility in the realm of policy and regulations that match the unique aspects of local governments, our people, and sovereignty.

We respectfully urge you to consider and swiftly confirm Stevan Pearce as our next Director of the Bureau of Land Management. His proven track record of effective leadership will be an invaluable asset to the Secretary of the Interior and to the American people.

Sincerely,

T. Greg Merrion

T. Greg Merrion
Chairman of the Board
Merrion Oil & Gas

NMA
National
Mining
Association

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich,

On behalf of the National Mining Association, I write to express strong support for the confirmation of Steve Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Kyle Haustveit as Under Secretary of Energy at the Department of Energy (DOE), and David LaCerte to continue serving on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

As the only national trade organization that serves as the voice of the U.S. mining industry and the hundreds of thousands of American workers it employs before Congress, the federal agencies, the judiciary and the media, the NMA works to ensure America has secure and reliable supply chains, abundant and affordable energy and American-sourced materials—all delivered under world-leading environmental, safety and labor standards.

Steve Pearce brings a strong combination of experience and practical understanding of multiple-use management of federal lands. As a seven-term member of Congress from New Mexico, he worked closely on issues central to Western communities, including mining and energy production. He consistently supported policies that maintain access to federal resources and opposed land designations that weaken local economies.

As BLM director, Mr. Pearce would oversee approximately 245 million acres of public lands and related mineral estates. His experience in New Mexico, where federal land policy directly affects oil and gas, mining, agriculture and tribal interests, gives him a clear understanding of how to balance conservation with responsible development. Stakeholders across the West have recognized his ability to fairly represent the energy and extraction sectors while maintaining stewardship responsibilities.

The bureau's mission centers on multiple use and sustained yield, including mineral and energy production that support American jobs and national

101 Constitution Ave. NW / Suite 500 East / Washington, D.C. 20001 / Phone: 202. 463. 2600

security. Confirming a leader who understands these priorities will provide BLM with steady, informed leadership at a critical time. His confirmation would reinforce the agency's commitment to balanced management that supports mining and other resource industries while working with communities and local governments.

NMA also urges the committee to support Kyle Haustveit's nomination as Under Secretary of Energy. The undersecretary plays a central role in guiding the department's energy programs and aligning research, development and policy with national priorities. At a time when the United States must expand domestic energy production, strengthen supply chains and modernize critical infrastructure, this position is essential to advancing responsible, reliable energy development. Strong leadership in this role helps ensure that federal policy supports affordability, grid reliability, technological innovation and long-term energy security.

Mr. Haustveit's experience overseeing major energy research and development programs, combined with his private-sector background in energy production and technology, gives him a practical understanding of how policy decisions affect investment, deployment and competitiveness. He recognizes the importance of supporting traditional energy resources alongside emerging technologies and of maintaining a regulatory and research framework that enables American producers to meet growing demand while upholding strong environmental and safety standards. His leadership would help ensure that DOE programs remain focused on strengthening domestic energy capacity and reinforcing the nation's economic and strategic position.

Finally, I urge confirmation of David LaCerte to continue as a commissioner at FERC. His service has supported sound decisions on electric reliability, infrastructure permitting, and regulatory clarity that benefit consumers and industry. Continuity at FERC provides stability for energy markets and the regulatory environment needed to advance infrastructure projects.

Thank you for your consideration. Confirming these nominees will strengthen federal leadership in land management and energy policy at a time when the United States must secure domestic resource development, modernize critical infrastructure and provide regulatory certainty for American industries.

Sincerely,

Rich Nolan

101 Constitution Ave. NW / Suite 500 East / Washington, D.C. 20001 / Phone: 202. 463. 2600

The Navajo Nation DR. BUU NYGREN PRESIDENT
Yideeskąądi Nitsáhákees | *Think for the Future*

February 18, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee, *Chairman*
Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich, *Ranking Member*
Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Supporting the BLM Director Nomination of Stevan Pearce

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich,

I am writing to express my support for Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Mr. Pearce's experience protecting the interests of New Mexico in the U.S. House of Representatives and his first-hand knowledge working in the oil industry will make him a strong fit for this role leading BLM's multi-use mission.

With BLM managing one tenth of the United States' land, primarily in the West, it is important the Director understands Indian Country, sovereignty, and respects the government's sacred trust obligation and treaty responsibilities. Mr. Pearce has proven his knowledge in this area during his tenure in the House of Representatives. He supported the Navajo Nation and Pueblos during the 2016 sale of numerous sacred objects in a Paris auction house, eventually helping to secure diplomatic travel for Navajo and Puebloan leaders to bring these objects home.

In 2015, the Gold King Mine Spill released toxic materials into the San Juan River. This spill forced irrigation systems to be shutdown and caused harm to the Navajo Nation. Mr. Pearce worked alongside the Arizona and New Mexico Congressional delegations to hold the responsible parties accountable and called upon the EPA to address the impacts of this disaster.

On behalf of the Navajo Nation, I offer my support for Mr. Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management. If you wish to discuss this letter further, please do not hesitate to reach out to Mr. Vincent Redhouse, Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office at (202) 682-7390 or VRedhouse@NNWO.org. *Ahéhee'* (thank you).

Sincerely,

Dr. Buu Nygren *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS NMACD
PO Box 70
Carlsbad, NM 88221
575 361-1413
conserve@nmacd.org

January 19, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee Chairman

The Honorable Martin Heinrich Ranking Member

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

304 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to be the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

On behalf of the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts (NMACD), I am writing to express our full and unwavering support for Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management. We have worked with Mr. Pearce for the last 30 years including while he served as a New Mexico State Representative and again while he served as our Congressman for District 2 NM.

Mr. Pearce possesses exceptional qualifications due to his experience representing the people of New Mexico. Mr. Pearce has experience working in the oil and gas industry which will benefit the entire United States. He is from Lea County NM which is in the heart of the "Permian Basin." Mr. Pearce has also worked with and represented the Agriculture Industry in New Mexico which is especially important when trying to balance issues between the Oil and Gas Industry, the Agriculture Industry, and the Environment.

We believe that Mr. Pearce will work with everyone to protect our natural resources while developing mineral assets all over the United States.

Please confirm Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as the Director of the BLM.

Sincerely.

Josh Smith, NMACD President

Debbie Hughes, NMACD Executive Director

New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association

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WEBSITE: www.nmagriculture.org • EMAIL: nmcga20@gmail.com

January 16, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

On behalf of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association (NMCGA), I write to express our strong support for President Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

The New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association represents cattle producers across New Mexico, many of whom depend on federally managed lands for their livelihoods. Our members graze livestock on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and rely on a regulatory framework that is predictable, science-based, and grounded in the multiple-use and sustained-yield mandates established by Congress. Decisions made by the Department of the Interior and the BLM directly affect the economic viability of ranching families, rural communities, and the stewardship of working landscapes throughout the West.

Steve Pearce is exceptionally well qualified to serve in this role. As a former Member of Congress from New Mexico, Mr. Pearce has a deep understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities associated with managing public lands in the West. He brings firsthand knowledge of New Mexico's landscapes, economies, and communities, as well as an appreciation for the balance that must be struck between conservation, responsible resource use, and the continuation of traditional land uses such as livestock grazing.

Importantly, Mr. Pearce understands that well-managed grazing is compatible with, and often beneficial to, land health, wildlife habitat, and wildfire risk reduction. His experience and familiarity with the realities on the ground will be invaluable to ensure that BLM policies are workable, transparent, and respectful of permittees who have long served as stewards of public lands.

The New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association believes that Mr. Pearce's leadership will help restore trust between land managers and permittees, improve coordination with state and local stakeholders, and promote practical land management policies that recognize the importance of agriculture to the West's public lands and rural economies.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the Committee to favorably consider and advance Mr. Pearce's nomination. We appreciate your attention to this matter and thank you for your continued service on issues affecting public lands and western communities.

Sincerely,

Tom Paterson

Tom Paterson, President
New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association

New Mexico Federal Lands Council
3417 Avenida Charada NW / Albuquerque NM 87107
Phone: 575.590.7587
Email: newmexicofederallandscouncil@gmail.com

January 26, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

It is with great pleasure that the New Mexico Federal Lands Council (NMFLC) writes this letter in support of Steve Pearce's nomination as Director for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The NMFLC represents federal and state trust lands ranchers in New Mexico and the West.

Many of us have worked with Mr. Pearce for decades as he served in the New Mexico State Legislature and then Congress. He has deep knowledge and appreciation of natural resources and their value on numerous fronts. He is aware of the energy production our country depends upon as well as the rich protein supply that comes from our ranching lands comes from the ground. He is acutely aware that these are national security issues.

Mr. Pearce has long been a champion for rural communities. His business background and military discipline have aided him in making and executing decisions and plans that aide people living on and from the land. He has been a champion of the Native American community, the sportsman community and border security.

Serving as chairman of the House Western Caucus gave Mr. Pearce the opportunity to learn about issues facing the states represented by the Caucus.

The accomplishments of Steve Pearce go on but suffice it to say that he is uniquely qualified for the position of Director of the BLM. We encourage the passage of his nomination.

Sincerely,
Ty Bays
President
New Mexico Federal Lands Council

NEW MEXICO OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION
123 W. Booth Street· Santa Fe · NM · 87505· 505.982.2568 ·www.nmoga.org

February 9, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

On behalf of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association, I am writing to express our support for Steve Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management. Mr. Pearce's dedication to public service and professional experience make him well suited to lead BLM.

NMOGA is a coalition of oil and natural gas companies and community partners dedicated to promoting the safe, sustainable, and environmentally responsible development of energy through advocacy, collaboration, and education. We are committed to representing the industry with integrity, dedication, and trust. NMOGA members produce affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy options through continuous innovation and environmental stewardship.

Please contact me with any questions. Thank you and your team for your consideration and work.

Sincerely,

Missi Currier

Missi Currier
President & CEO

Pueblo de San Ildefonso
Office of the Governor

February 20, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

I serve as the Governor for the Pueblo de San Ildefonso, a federal recognized Indian tribe in New Mexico. I write in strong support of Stevan Pearce's appointment to serve as the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Mr. Pearce represented the people of the 2nd Congressional District in New Mexico for multiple terms. However, in my experience, he took seriously advocating for the interests of all New Mexicans. He combines political experience with business experience, making him very suitable for the unique responsibilities placed upon the BLM Director. His work with the Pueblos of New Mexico demonstrated the utmost respect for our sovereignty and for our perspective on many challenging issues. His ability to entertain a wide range of views and seek to find a path forward reflecting these views is exactly what you would like in a BLM director who has to deal with multiple constituencies with an interest in federal lands.

Former Congressman Pearce will make an outstanding BLM director. He has my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Moquino
Governor
Pueblo de San Ildefonso

02 Tunyo Po · Santa Fe, NM 87506 · O: (505) 455-2273 · F: (505) 455-7351

Rio Grande Foundation

Liberty, Opportunity, Prosperity
New Mexico

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Submitted electronically to: Belle_Neilson@energy.senate.gov
Administrative Assistant of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources

February 10, 2026

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce
for Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

I am President of the Rio Grande Foundation, a free market think tank based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I write this letter to express my strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

Having led the Rio Grande Foundation for 20 years, I have seen Mr. Pearce in numerous roles of tremendous importance. He served in the New Mexico Legislature. Then, as a congressman representing New Mexico's 2nd district for 14 years, he was a voice for common sense and the interests of New Mexicans. He then was chair of the New Mexico Republican Party and has continued to serve his state since then. He's also written two books.

Pearce has a lengthy track record in business and lives in one of the fastest-growing oil producing areas in the United States in Southeast New Mexico. New Mexico is also the leading US state in terms of oil and gas produced on BLM lands which makes Pearce one of the most knowledgeable people in the nation in terms of the importance and challenges of BLM lands and their importance to the American people.

This experience has given Mr. Pearce a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy with strong emphasis on the "multiple use and sustainable yield" mission, and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development.

400 Gold Street, SW, #909
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102
www.RioGrandeFoundation.org

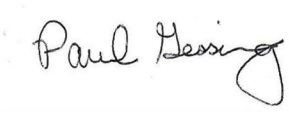
Phone: (505) 264-6090
Fax: (505) 213-0300

The Rio Grande Foundation values a strong American economy and a strong New Mexico economy as well as a clean environment. In this role we believe that Mr. Pearce will provide the needed expertise and industry knowledge to balance economic and environmental goals while maximizing the benefits of these lands for all Americans. At the Rio Grande Foundation we look forward to helping both the Trump Administration and Mr. Pearce in his role at BLM in any way we can.

We urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly to confirm Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this this important mission on behalf of the American people.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul Gessing
President

Rio Grande Foundation

** Note: Letters from individuals are accepted also*
*** Quickest submission electronically: Belle_Neilson@energy.senate.gov, but mailed copies help as well.*

State of New Mexico
House of Representatives
Santa Fé

LUIS M. TERRAZAS
R - Catron, Grant & Hidalgo
District 39

P. O. Box 55
Santa Clara, NM 88026
Phone: (575) 313-4262
Office: (505) 946-5639
E-mail: luis.terrazas@nmlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:
Labor, Veterans' & Military Affairs
Taxation & Revenue

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman
The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

As House Representative, District 39 of the State of New Mexico, it is my honor to express my staunch support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would bring more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this vital role. He represented New Mexico's 2nd District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019), served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and has held other elected and appointed positions. He also brings private sector experience as the owner of a small business that specialized in servicing oil and gas wells in Lea County, New Mexico, the #1 oil producing county in the country. His combined public service and private sector background uniquely positions him to lead the BLM effectively from day one.

Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy with strong emphasis on the "multiple use and sustainable yield" mission and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development.

The State of New Mexico is committed to advancing a future where, oil & gas, ranching, mining, farming etc., continues to drive economic growth, ensure energy reliability, and foster innovation. By collaborating with industry leaders and communities, we aim to achieve these objectives and secure a thriving future for America and Americans. As an organization, the State of New Mexico cherishes sustainability, cooperation, and collaboration—principles we are confident Mr. Pearce will champion in his leadership of the BLM.

We urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this this important mission on behalf of the American people.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Luis M. Terrazas
House Representative, District 39
State of New Mexico

February 23, 2026

Sen. Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Sen. Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

As a coalition of trade associations that represent the hardworking men and women who collectively produce approximately 80% of our nation's oil and natural gas, we strongly support Steve Pearce's nomination by President Donald Trump to be the next director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and we urge the U.S. Senate to quickly approve his confirmation.

While we celebrate America 250 and remember our nation's founding, we also reflect upon the vast expansion beyond the original 13 states that came following the fight for independence. The legacy of which is overseen by BLM, the nation's largest public lands management agency. Often referred to as the Nation's Largest Landlord, BLM is responsible for managing 245 million acres of multiple-use public lands and 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. BLM's public lands are predominantly within 12 western states, but it also oversees parcels and minerals across all 50 states. Altogether, these vital lands are set aside for the good of the American public, and they contribute to the food, fiber, fuel, and fun that sustain our nation.

Mr. Pearce hails from a state dominated by public lands. New Mexico is 47% public lands, including 17% that are managed by BLM. Growing up, he witnessed the beautiful and rugged landscapes that provide tremendous value to our nation. If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would oversee public lands that generate $245.4 billion in total economic output each year, including $74 billion from oil and natural gas production, $8.6 billion from outdoor recreation, and more than $500 million invested in conservation.

Before entering public service, Mr. Pearce built and managed a small oilfield services company he and his wife co-owned in Hobbs, New Mexico. Under his leadership, the company grew from a local start-up into a successful enterprise serving operators across the Permian Basin, now the nation's largest oil-producing region. At the time, the Basin was still considered a frontier for exploration, the land of wildcatters where success depended on ingenuity and perseverance. As a small business owner, he experienced firsthand the challenges of navigating federal regulations. This perspective gives him a practical understanding of how BLM policies directly affect job creation, affordability, economic growth, and responsible operations on public lands.

During his 14 years representing New Mexico's 2nd District, Mr. Pearce consistently advanced policies to increase access to federal lands for energy development, grazing, and recreation while ensuring

responsible stewardship. He co-sponsored legislation to streamline BLM permitting for oil and natural gas projects, advocated for mineral leasing reforms to improve transparency and timeliness, and supported measures to ensure local and tribal input in land-use planning. Mr. Pearce also worked across party lines on wildfire management and habitat restoration initiatives that balanced conservation goals with community needs. His legislative record reflects a belief that economic opportunity and environmental protection can—and must—coexist across multiple uses of public lands.

Elected by his peers to chair the esteemed Congressional Western Caucus, Mr. Pearce unified a broad coalition of lawmakers to advocate for balanced federal land policies. He helped lead efforts to modernize endangered species and land management plans, promote responsible energy production, and expand access to outdoor recreation. Under his leadership, the Caucus introduced and supported measures reinforcing the principle of multiple-use and sustained yield—core tenets of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act that guide BLM's mission.

Mr. Pearce also recognizes the importance of protecting treasured landscapes and has a record of legislatively supporting wilderness areas while fostering community, stakeholder, and public collaboration. In 2012, he introduced a bill to designate 55,000 acres in the Organ Mountains of New Mexico as wilderness—permanently prohibiting mineral development while maintaining access for outdoor recreation. That balanced approach reflects his philosophy of responsible stewardship that is core to President Trump's Make America Beautiful Again agenda during America 250: conservation and development can work hand in hand.

Mr. Pearce values the role of public input in land management decisions and increasing access for recreation. While serving in Congress in 2013, for example, he advocated for BLM to extend a public comment period on a Draft Tri-County Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement so that more citizens could be heard. In doing so, he urged BLM not to restrict access to public lands but rather to increase access, in particular for senior citizens and people with disabilities. These are valuable traits that will serve him well as director of BLM, if confirmed.

Mr. Pearce is exceptionally qualified to lead BLM and to carry out the president's priorities of unleashing energy, expanding access to recreation, and incentivizing conservation on public lands—each a pillar of the president's agendas to unleash American energy and Making America Beautiful Again. His deep understanding of the western landscape and decades of experience bridging local, state, and federal interests make him uniquely prepared to guide the BLM's mission of multiple use and sustained yield.

We urge the Senate to confirm Steve Pearce as director of BLM so that America's public lands can continue to serve as a foundation for energy security, recreation, and conservation for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Western Energy Alliance
Energy Workforce & Technology Council
Independent Petroleum Association of America
International Association of Drilling Contractors
U.S. Oil & Gas Association

WESTERN PEANUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Ph. (432) 758-2050 P.O. Box 252 Seminole, Texas 79360

February 19, 2026

The Honorable
Mike Lee
Chairman,
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable
Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member,
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

The Western Peanut Growers Association is providing this letter in support of Mr. Stevan Pearce's nomination to serve as the Directors of the Bureau of Land Management. Mr. Pearce's extensive experience with Western Land management issues, gained through his service representing New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, as well as a small business owner in the oil and gas sector, has given him the expertise necessary to lead this critical agency effectively.

Mr. Pearce brings practical, career-based experience across all phases of oil and gas production, combined with a demonstrated commitment to responsible resource development that minimizes Environmental impact. His blend of on-the-ground operational knowledge and legislative experience positions him to provide sound, balanced leadership to the BLM as it manages the multiple-use mission across America's public lands.

The Western Peanut Growers Association supports Mr. Pearce's nomination and urges the Committee to move his confirmation forward expeditiously.

Sincerely,

Otis Johnson,
President,
Western Peanut Growers Association

The CHAIRMAN. Questions for the record of the hearing are due by 6:00 p.m. tomorrow evening, Thursday, February 26th.

The record of the hearing will remain open for statements until 6:00 p.m. this coming Wednesday, a week from today, Wednesday, March 4th.

Thank you to Ranking Member Heinrich and his staff and to members of the Committee.

On behalf of the Committee, I am pleased to congratulate each of you on your nominations and look forward to working closely with each of you as we approach the moment where your nominations can move forward and proceed to the floor.

I hope every Senator on the Committee will continue to work with me to encourage leadership on both sides of the aisle to bring these nominations to the floor as soon as possible.

The Committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:37 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

APPENDIX MATERIAL SUBMITTED

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
February 25, 2026 Hearing: ***Haustveit Nomination***

Questions for the Record Submitted to Mr. Haustveit

Questions for the Record from Ranking Member Martin Heinrich

Question 1: The new role to which you have been nominated will oversee a number of DOE Offices that are outside your current purview, including the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, the Office of Nuclear Energy, and the Office of Electricity.

What specific experiences make you qualified to serve in this role at this time, and how will you approach the execution of "Energy Dominance"?

RESPONSE: I am honored to be nominated by President Trump and supported by Energy Secretary Wright. As I said in my opening statement, I am a third generation energy worker. My family's connection to energy spans decades, and their hard work instilled in me a deep respect for the industry and its importance to our nation. If confirmed, I look forward to working with programs under my purview to ensure we provide affordable, reliable, and secure energy for all Americans. I will continue to advance the American Energy Dominance vision that President Trump and Secretary Wright have outlined to stabilize, optimize, and grow the U.S. energy system. My specific qualifications include a degree in engineering, an MBA, years of leading integrated technical teams, and venture capital experience where I was active in evaluating the techno-economic merit of a wide array of energy sources, including nuclear, geothermal, critical minerals, and carbon dioxide utilization.

Question 2: The US is losing out on being dominant in the global energy future due to a war on clean energy that is holding back out domestic manufacturing. You stated in your testimony that you are committed to advancing policies that ensure that America remains a global leader in energy production and technology.

Why are we allowing China to lead in the manufacturing of new clean innovative technologies?

RESPONSE: Maintaining and increasing the resilience of our nation's electrical grid is a top priority. We have an incredible amount of existing and future power demand placed upon our nation's aging infrastructure. To meet energy demand, we must prioritize efforts to build out reliable energy infrastructure, including transmission delivery systems. If confirmed, I will work with Congress, states, tribes, and other stakeholders to strengthen, modernize, and increase the capacity of our nation's energy production and power systems. Thanks to President Trump's bold leadership, America is reshoring its manufacturing base to produce the critical components our country needs. The Department of Energy (DOE) is focused on unleashing private capital investments to supercharge new and emerging technologies to decisively defeat China in the race for energy dominance thereby securing our nation's future.

Questions for the Record from Senator Steve Daines

Question 1: Assistant Secretary Haustveit, as you know, electricity demand is increasing nationwide. Meeting that demand will require deploying reliable, dispatchable baseload generation while also strengthening our transmission capacity to deliver that power where it's needed most. Expanding our transmission infrastructure will depend on a streamlined permitting process to bring essential energy projects online without delay. Will you commit to working with

our states, national laboratories, and private-sector partners to accelerate critical infrastructure buildout and ensure that federal investments are focused on strengthening reliability, resilience and affordability of the electric grid to meet our nation's growing economic and energy security needs?

RESPONSE: If confirmed, I will fully commit to working with states, our national laboratories, and private-sector partners to accelerate the buildout of critical energy infrastructure. I believe our energy policy must be grounded in affordability, reliability, and security. I will support efforts that strengthen long-term grid resilience and ensure we can meet rising electricity demand.

Question 2: Assistant Secretary Haustveit, hydropower provides a steady and dependable source of electricity for many Montanans, making up the second-largest portion of the state's power generation. However, numerous hydropower projects experience delays due to supply chain challenges. It is essential to restore these projects to create American jobs, increase domestic output and deliver affordable energy nationwide. Will you commit to supporting the expansion and modernization of our hydropower infrastructure to strengthen baseload power?

RESPONSE: As Secretary Wright has stated, to meet the ever-growing global energy needs of tomorrow, we need energy addition, not energy subtraction. We must increase all forms of affordable, reliable, and secure energy sources and technologies. Hydropower is a critical part of our energy mix, providing low-cost baseload power to millions of Americans every day. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and other members of the Committee on these important issues.

Question 3: Assistant Secretary Haustveit, the Department of Energy helps fund important projects in Montana and throughout the United States to support research, development, and the advancement of high-potential technologies. Will you commit to ensuring that all applicants and proposed projects are evaluated through a fair, timely, transparent, and merit-based review process?

RESPONSE: It is the policy of the Department of Energy (DOE) to ensure that financial assistance award recipients and the projects they propose are, among other things, financially sound and economically viable, aligned with national and economic security interests, and consistent with Federal law and this Administration's policies and priorities.

Questions for the Record from Senator Ron Wyden

Question 1: Mr. Hausveit: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is absolutely essential to the Pacific Northwest. BPA delivers affordable hydropower, operates the region's transmission lines, and funds critical fish and wildlife programs. They are on the front lines of meeting rising electricity demand, while also trying to keep rates affordable for families and communities. DOE is now searching for BPA's next Administrator, and that decision could not be more consequential for the Northwest. We need leadership that can expand transmission, integrate more renewable energy, and uphold commitments to Tribes and local communities to protect fish and wildlife. At the same time, the Administrator must ensure financial stability,

regional certainty, and reliable power across the system. This is a decision that needs input from everyone. Will you commit to meaningful consultation with the Northwest Congressional Delegation, BPA Customers, and Tribes in selecting the next Administrator?

RESPONSE: I appreciate the importance of ensuring that this decision reflects the perspectives and interests of the region. I am committed to working with Bonneville's stakeholders and constituents to select the next Administrator—one that will represent regional interests and advance Administration priorities of delivering affordable, reliable, and secure power, and providing transmission services to the Pacific Northwest. Power Marketing Administrations like the Bonneville Power Administration have played a unique and important role in the U.S. energy system, particularly in delivering federally generated hydropower to consumers, supporting reliability, and providing rural customers in underserved regions access to affordable electricity.

Questions for the Record from Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith

Question 1: Mr. Haustveit, the Department of Energy has taken important steps to improve permitting for energy infrastructure projects.

The administrative changes hold the promise of being especially impactful with the Office of Energy Dominance Financing created by OBBBA in streamlining domestic energy, mining, and manufacturing projects that meaningfully contribute to U.S. energy security and energy dominance.

If confirmed, will you look into how DOE can use its existing authorities to streamline reviews under the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act to further our energy dominance goals?

RESPONSE: If confirmed, I intend to evaluate all opportunities to unlock American energy dominance, including making government more efficient for the American people.

Questions for the Record from Senator Catherine Cortez Masto

Question 1: E&E News recently reported that the U.S. clean energy industry lost at least 10,000 manufacturing jobs last year. According to their analysis, this was part of an overall decline that saw the country lose over 72,000 manufacturing jobs in 2025. If confirmed as Under Secretary of Energy, you'll be responsible for deploying energy infrastructure investments across the country.

If confirmed, will you commit to implementing all bipartisan infrastructure and energy programs enacted by Congress as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law?

RESPONSE: If confirmed, I will follow the law.

Question 2: As you are aware, the Trump Administration has marked a significant shift in U.S. industrial policy by acquiring equity stakes in private companies in sectors deemed critical to national security. The U.S. government is now a direct shareholder in private companies, moving

beyond traditional market-based approaches to competitiveness. To date, $10 billion in federal funds has been committed in exchange for equity stakes in private firms.

If confirmed, will you commit to providing Congress with transparency and details regarding DOE investments and projects that require an equity stake in a private company?

If confirmed, what will be your vision and near-term goals for DOE's Loan Programs Office – now deemed the Office of Energy Dominance Financing?

RESPONSE: The authorizing statutes for DOE's Energy Dominance Financing Program or "EDF" (formerly the Loan Program Office or LPO) are the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. These grant EDF broad authority to establish terms and conditions for loans and loan guarantees. Over the years, EDF has leveraged this authority to negotiate warrants—or options to acquire shares—as additional collateral. For example, LPO included equity warrants as part of its 2010 $465M low-interest loan to Telsa under the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing program. These warrants would have allowed DOE to purchase up to 3,090,111 shares of Tesla common stock. As part of Tesla's early repayment of the entire loan in May 2013, DOE agreed not to exercise the warrants.

If confirmed, I will work to ensure that DOE actions are carried out with transparency and accountability, and that includes providing Congress with clear visibility into DOE investments, including those involving equity stakes. I will likewise work to ensure that EDF's loan and loan guarantee portfolio furthers statutory objectives and serves the interests of the American people. I will also evaluate public-private partnerships to strengthen U.S. competitiveness and energy security.

Question 3: A recent report found that the largest number of departing DOE staff in 2025 stem from Offices overseen by the Under Secretary of Energy. Specifically, this report determined that these Offices lost over 50 percent of their workforce.

In recognition that you are in the building, what is your assessment and understanding of DOE's current workforce in the eight Offices you'd oversee?

Are there any rehiring efforts underway at the Department that you can share details on?

RESPONSE: Today, programs within the Under Secretary of Energy vertical are hiring the next generation of our Nation's energy leaders. DOE is committed to fulfilling all statutory obligations and pursuing our American energy dominance mission while being wise stewards of taxpayer dollars. More staff does not always mean more work is being done.

Question 4: Last month, DOE issued a Request for Information to open communication with states interested in hosting Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses. If confirmed as Under Secretary of Energy, you'd oversee activities at DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy.

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
February 25, 2026 Hearing: *Haustveit Nomination*

Can you explain your thoughts on nuclear waste management at DOE and confirm whether you agree with President Trump and Energy Secretary Wright that the failed Yucca Mountain project in Nevada is not a solution for nuclear waste storage?

If confirmed, will you commit to a consent-based approach for any nuclear waste repository site selection process? And will you commit to work with my office and the State of Nevada on matters related to nuclear waste management?

RESPONSE: I support the position of President Trump and Energy Secretary Wright as it relates to Yucca Mountain. Yes, I will work with your office and the State of Nevada on matters related to nuclear waste management.

Question 5: Your written testimony referenced the critical role that our National Labs played in unlocking the shale revolution.

If confirmed, will you commit to working across the Department to leverage our National Labs for innovative advancements in all energy technologies – including renewables?

RESPONSE: If confirmed, my focus will be on advancing American energy solutions that are affordable, reliable, and secure—especially those that leverage our existing abundant energy resources here at home.

Question 6: DOE's Transmission Facilitation Program and Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program are proven tools to support new grid projects that can relieve congest, connect affordable generation, protect against extreme weather, and lower energy costs for consumers.

If confirmed, what are your plans for these programs?

Are you supportive of fully utilizing these programs to address rising energy costs? Why or why not?

RESPONSE: If confirmed, I will work to ensure that all activities within the Office of Electricity (OE) are carried out in full compliance with the law. OE will identify and address grid needs, reduce bottlenecks, and coordinate with permitting agencies to support timely, high-impact transmission development, including advanced transmission technologies.

Questions for the Record from Senator John W. Hickenlooper

Question 1: You were confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy in September 2025. Two weeks later, DOE cancelled 321 grants, totaling over $7.5 billion in already-obligated DOE funding.

Last month, a judge ruled that DOE illegally targeted cancellations in 'blue states' and required DOE to restore 7 grants for the plaintiffs in the suit, including several in Colorado.

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
February 25, 2026 Hearing: *Haustveit Nomination*

Will you commit that DOE will not look for some other pretext to cancel these awards for a second time?

As Under Secretary, will you commit to restoring the rest of these awards that fall under your oversight?

RESPONSE: To date, program offices have reviewed more than 2,000 awards as part of Portfolio Review Process. The termination notices issued in October 2025 were part of a larger subset of determinations, the majority of which were to continue funding awards either as written or subject to modifications.
These determinations are the subject of pending litigation, which was filed before DOE took final action on the balance of this subset. Pursuant to the Court's initial decision in the City of St. Paul litigation, DOE restored the seven awards at issue in the case. DOE is awaiting the Courts' decision on the plaintiffs' request for broader relief. DOE is also awaiting a decision in the Thakur litigation pending in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, where a third case challenging these determinations is also pending.
Since being confirmed as Assistant Secretary of the Office of Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy, I have been working with technical and procurement staff, as well as program counsel, to take a fresh look at the determinations that were made by the previous administration. This includes taking meetings with recipients of terminated awards as part of DOE's informal dispute resolution process. Whatever final action is taken on any awards will be consistent with DOE's Guide to Financial Assistance and any applicable court decisions.

Question 2: There is over $3 billion in existing authorities at DOE under the GRIP program that could provide immediate relief to the grid, deploy advanced transmission technologies (ATTs), and protect against extreme weather. What is your plan to distribute those funds, and will you prioritize innovative technologies like ATTs that can add capacity on the grid and battle rising energy prices? What did you learn from the Speed to Power RFI, which asked about GRIP?

RESPONSE: If confirmed, I will work to ensure that all activities within the Office of Electricity are carried out in full compliance with the law. OE will identify and address grid needs, reduce bottlenecks and coordinate with permitting agencies to support timely, high-impact transmission development, including advanced transmission technologies. In regard to the Speed to Power RFI, respondents emphasized the magnitude of investment required to modernize and expand the U.S. electric grid and supported federal intervention to de-risk projects, bridge funding gaps, and strategically mobilize private capital.

Question 3: In the last Presidential Budget Request, President Trump requested a significant increase in credit subsidy, $750 million, for Section 1706 loans. Do you believe there is currently enough credit subsidy in EDF to support the deployment of new generation needed to support load growth? How are you increasing staffing in this office to execute quickly and effectively on your priorities?

RESPONSE: If confirmed, I would prioritize an assessment of EDF's current capabilities and resource needs.

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Question 4: There is existing unobligated authority at DOE under the Transmission Facilitation Program to support new transmission projects that can relieve congestion, connect affordable generation, and lower energy costs for consumers. What are your plans for the program, and do you believe increased authority for TFP could further address rising energy costs? What did you learn from the Speed to Power RFI, which asked about TFP?

RESPONSE: I support the approach to accelerate timelines and build out grid capacity where it is needed most to deliver affordable, reliable, and secure power to consumers and drive our economy forward.

Questions for the Record from Senator Alex Padilla

Question 1: During your tenure at the Department of Energy, Secretary Wright announced the cancellation of hundreds of grants and awards, including from your Office of Fossil Energy. Many of these grants supported projects developing carbon capture and utilization technologies. Yet, in your opening statement, you highlighted your support for a carbon capture and utilization project as a particular point of pride. How will you, as you said in your testimony, "drive forward cutting-edge research and development" while stifling already-funded projects working on the solutions you claim to be excited about?

RESPONSE: Under DOE's Portfolio Review Process, program offices are tasked with reviewing their financial assistance portfolios against a number of criteria including whether a project has achieved the milestones set forth in the terms of the award; whether a project remains technically and economically feasible; and whether, pursuant to 2 CFR 200.340(a)(4), a project continues to effectuate the purpose of the program or the Department's priorities. These criteria have particular salience in regard to carbon management given the failure of so many of these projects over the last three decades. See, e.g., Wang, Akimoto, and Nemet, What went wrong? Learning from three decades of carbon capture, utilization and sequestration (CCUS) pilot and demonstration projects, Energy Policy Vol. 158 (Nov. 2021).

I strongly support research, development, demonstration, and responsible commercialization of carbon management technologies and I am committed to advancing technically and financially viable solutions. As noted above, since being confirmed as Assistant Secretary of the Office of Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy, I have been working with staff to take a fresh look at the determinations that were made by the previous administration, particularly those involving carbon management. I am also working on funding opportunities that incentivize the design and implementation of carbon management solutions as part of plant modernization efforts.

Question 2: If confirmed, will you ensure that funding decisions made with deep expertise by DOE staff are executed fully and faithfully?

RESPONSE: If confirmed, I will ensure that funding decisions made by DOE are executed fully, faithfully, and in compliance with the law. I am committed to a process that is fair, transparent, data-driven, and grounded in measurable results. My focus will be on responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars, lawful disbursement of funds, and ensuring that DOE programs are administered with integrity and consistency across the Department.

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Questions for the Record Submitted to Mr. David LaCerte

Questions for the Record from Ranking Member Martin Heinrich

Question 1: We have seen a huge increase in electricity demand over the past few years and that demand is only going to grow in the future. We need to get every electron we can get and an expanded and upgrade transmission grid to meet this rising demand.

How will FERC facilitate the build out of transmission to make certain that electricity bills stop rising for the average American?

See answer immediately below.

Do you agree that we need more clean energy and transmission projects to keep energy prices affordable and the grid reliable?

Answer: As I have said on numerous occasions, we need every available electron. It is crucial for our country to make the most efficient use of our existing transmission grid, add more resources to that grid, and build out that grid with thoughtful investments in new transmission. All of those steps contribute to keeping energy prices affordable and the grid reliable. The Commission is working within its statutory authority to promote those goals. The choice of resource mix is up to the states. FERC is fuel neutral. And as I said in my testimony, I am committed to increasing the pace of infrastructure approvals at the Commission, while simultaneously protecting consumers.

Question 2: FERC's Order No. 1920 is an important tool to help ensure we have adequate long-term regional electric transmission planning, along with agreement on cost allocation.

Do you agree on the importance of long-term regional transmission planning given the drastic increase in electricity demand?

See answer immediately below.

If confirmed, how would you work to uphold the spirit of Order No. 1920?

Answer: Without prejudging filings on compliance with Order No. 1920 that will come before the Commission, I agree that long-term planning of transmission facilities may foster transmission development that will address increasing electricity demand. In my current term, and if I am fortunate to be confirmed for a new term, I commit to working with my colleagues to ensure proper implementation of this important rule.

Question 3: At a recent Congressional hearing, FERC Chairman Swett noted that the agency is beginning to hire more employees. While hiring qualified staff is important to FERC's mission in assisting consumers, keeping those qualified staff is equally important.

If confirmed, how will you work with your colleagues to make sure qualified, diligent staff remain at FERC in the face of this Administration's assault on the federal workforce?

Answer: The Commission provides unique opportunities to engage in challenging and meaningful work on cutting edge energy issues, which attracts bright, curious, and engaged talent. The Commission has consistently ranked in the top tier for employee satisfaction among similar mid-size agencies. If reconfirmed, I will continue to work with the Chairman and fellow Commissioners to sustain the positive job the Commission has been doing to attract bright, enthusiastic professionals who are dedicated to the Commission's mission. I will give them the tools they need to get their work done efficiently and publicly recognize the excellent work that Commission staff does day in and day out to ensure affordable and reliable energy now and for our future generations.

What needs to happen to build trust within the workforce again?

Answer: I pledge to work with the Chairman and other colleagues to continue to provide meaningful work in a collaborative environment, ensure all employees have the tools they need to do their important work, and recognize their achievements. Communication is key to building trust, and my door is always open to suggestions from all levels of Commission staff on how we can improve.

Question 4: On February 25, 2025, FERC submitted a staff report to Congress on the North American Reliability Corporation's (NERC) Interregional Transfer Capability Study (ITC Study), as required by the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. The ITC Study determined that "[a]n additional 35 GW of transfer capability is recommended across the United States as a vehicle to strengthen energy adequacy under extreme conditions." Nevertheless, the staff report to Congress stated that "staff makes no recommendation regarding potential statutory changes in response to the ITC Study."

Do you agree with staff's assessment that no statutory changes are needed to respond to the 35 GW recommendation in order to strengthen reliability?

See answer immediately below.

Notwithstanding Congressional action, what steps should FERC take to strengthen interregional transmission planning?

Answer: I agree that transmission planning is necessary to keep energy prices affordable and the grid reliable. The ITC Study illustrates that interregional transmission is important, while also recognizing that a one-size-fits-all approach to increasing inter-regional transfer capability

could be ineffective. Building on those conclusions, there is more work to do on inter-regional transmission development, which may not require statutory changes. Order No. 1920 is one step in that direction as transmission providers will modify their interregional transmission coordination procedures to align with long-term planning reforms. I commit to you that I will work diligently to implement Order No. 1920 and to consider further opportunities for improvement in interregional transmission planning as they are brought to the Commission.

Questions for the Record from Senator Steve Daines

Question 1: Commissioner LaCerte, mandatory conditioning for hydropower licensing under 4(e) of the Federal Power Act has been abused by federal management agencies and resulted in costly and delayed licensing and relicensing for hydropower projects. In order to continue to support the development of new and existing hydropower we need to take action to limit 4(e) conditioning to addressing on the ground and direct effects of the hydropower project that specifically affect the lands and waters occupied by the project. Do you agree that 4(e) conditioning needs to be addressed and that federal management agencies should limit conditions to direct, on the ground effects?

Answer: Courts have held that the Commission cannot reject or modify mandatory conditions under Section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), fishway prescriptions under FPA section 18, and conditions prescribed in water quality certificates under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The Commission can either disagree on the record if a mandatory condition does not meet the comprehensive development standard under the FPA (and does so where appropriate) or deny the license application.

In a 2001 report to Congress pursuant to Section 603 of the Energy Act of 2000 (Section 603 Report), the Commission found that those projects with mandatory conditions and fishways prescribed cost three times per kW more when those measures are imposed compared to those projects that do not have mandatory conditions or fishways provided (Section 603 Report at 88). To help ameliorate these issues, the Commission then recommend that Congress create "one-stop shopping at the Commission for all federal authorizations". The recommendation would allow agencies with mandatory conditioning authority to prescribe such conditions or fishways, but would allow the Commission to "…reject or modify the conditions based on the inconsistency with the Commission's overall public interest determination" (Section 603 Report at 90).

To summarize, although the Commission is the lead federal agency for licensing non-federal hydropower projects, it must accept conditions from agencies that are not required to follow the Commission's comprehensive development standard. Changing that paradigm would require an act of Congress. If Congress were to pass such reforms, I would work to implement them to the best of my ability.

Question 2: Commissioner LaCerte, affordable and dependable hydropower and long-standing agricultural water supplies are foundational to our Western communities, supporting energy security, farming operations, and local economies. As proposals to decommission dams continue

to advance, there is growing concern about the potential impacts on baseload power generation and agricultural water supplies. Will you commit to ensuring that, in carrying out FERC's responsibilities under the Federal Power Act, the Commission's public interest determinations and environmental reviews fully and fairly account for the reliability of hydropower and protection of established agriculture water supplies?

Answer: As required by Section 10(a)(1) of the Federal Power Act (FPA), for the Commission to issue a new or original license, it must ensure that the project serves the multiple purposes a waterway provides. Also, under Section 4(e) of the FPA, it must give "equal consideration" to power and nonpower values, which includes electricity generation and water supply. The Commission's statutory requirements and regulations for license surrender are slightly different. 16 U.S.C. § 799, as implemented by 18 C.F.R. § 6.2. For the Commission to approve a license surrender application, it must ensure that the license surrender application and associated decommissioning plan is in the public interest. *FPL Energy Maine Hydro, LLC*, 106 FERC ¶ 61,143, *reh'g denied*, 107 FERC ¶ 61,404 (2004), *aff'd, sub nom.*, *Save Our Sebasticook v. FERC*, 431 F.3d 379 (1st Cir. 2005).

Therefore, I commit to ensuring that the Commission meets its statutory requirements and complies with its regulations as it relates to issuing new and original licenses and approving license surrenders.

Questions for the Record from Senator Catherine Cortez Masto

Question 1: Can you please expand on your written testimony and explain your commitment to FERC's independence?

Answer: I'm happy to restate my utmost commitment to preserving the independence of the Commission. As I said in my written testimony, the Commission's independence is not a courtesy, but a structural safeguard entrusted to it by Congress. This independence provides needed certainty to those dependent upon the Commission issuing orders providing for competitive and fair markets.

With that said, for the Commission to make reasoned decisions, we must hear from stakeholders. I welcome broad engagement to better educate the Commission on the impacts of their decisions. However, while that consultation will better educate the Commission, it does not impact the Commission's duty to implement its statutory responsibilities.

My voice and vote will always be independent and free from undue influence.

Question 2: In recognition that our grid needs all of the electrons it can get right now, will you please reaffirm your support for an all-of-the-above energy approach to growing electricity demand?

See answer immediately below.

If reconfirmed, how will you work to ensure that renewable resources aren't turned away from the grid?

Answer: I agree that we need every electron available to us. My north star is ensuring a reliable grid at affordable prices. The shorter we are on generation, the higher the prices are for consumers. This means that we need to get more steel in the ground, not just for renewables but also thermal, nuclear, storage, hydroelectric plants, gas infrastructure, electric transmission infrastructure, etc. And we must do so as swiftly as possible.

The Commission is resource neutral. Instead, it is the jurisdiction of each state to choose its resource mix. I commit to you to follow the law.

Question 3: From your perspective, does FERC currently have enough staff to meet the broad array of challenges and perform its duties to the American people?

Answer: The Commission has an ongoing need to recruit intelligent and dedicated professionals to accomplish the important work of ensuring reliable and affordable power. As Chairman Swett stated in the recent Congressional hearing and in a Commission open meeting, we are actively hiring. I will support the Chairman in her efforts to hire the best and brightest.

Are there ways that FERC can better recruit talent and accomplish some of the processing priorities you listed in your written testimony (such as cutting red tape, issuing permits, or decluttering dockets)?

Answer: With respect to recruitment, the nature of the work – the opportunity to make a significant positive impact now and for the future, and the Commission's supportive and collaborative work environment – speak for themselves. Of course, increasing our workforce will also enhance the speed and efficiency with which matters are resolved. Reviewing and understanding complex proceedings and drafting comprehensible and defendable orders on complex matters is not an overnight activity and it requires creativity and input from professional staff with expertise across a variety of fields.

Question 4: During your time on the Commission, FERC has taken several actions on oil pipeline matters – both during the November 2025 monthly meeting, and again this month by withdrawing a policy statement regarding pipeline customers. Of note, FERC dispensed with the outstanding issues from the July 2021 annual index rate proceeding last Fall, altering the process by which FERC allows pipelines to raise throughput rates charged to petroleum products shippers every five years. This raises concerns among Nevada stakeholders, as we've dealt with recent fuel supply hurdles.

Accordingly, can you provide a detailed description of your vote on these matters and how you balanced affordability implications for consumers with other pipeline stakeholders (such as pipeline owners and shippers)?

Answer: One of my priorities at the Commission is to work with my colleagues to clear the backlog of pending matters and remove the cloud of uncertainty that lingering matters can have. In each decision it makes, the Commission weighs and balances the interests of commenters and the benefits to regulated entities and consumers. I have taken that approach on these matters, and

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I am committed to ensuring that the Commission works expeditiously to ensure that its actions in future proceedings are durable and do not place regulated industries and consumers in limbo.

As to the oil index proceedings specifically, I supported the action we took in November 2025 to close out the 2020 Oil Index proceeding, which ensured that the Commission complied with the directives of the D.C. Circuit and gave effect to the court's decision in *Liquid Energy Pipeline Association v. FERC*, 109 F.4th 543 (D.C. Cir. 2024).

Also in November, the Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking initiating its 2025 Oil Index rulemaking. The 2025 Oil Index rulemaking is an ongoing proceeding and therefore my ability to comment on it is limited. I look forward to analyzing the comments and I commit to fairly evaluating the record in that docket and both considering and balancing affordability implications as well as pipeline and shipper interests.

Finally, as to the referenced action this month, that proceeding involved a 2022 proposed policy statement on oil pipeline affiliate contracts. I supported the withdrawal of that proposal because my colleagues and I found that the issues discussed in the proposed policy statement are best considered on a case-by-case basis, rather than a one-size-fits-all generic proceeding.

Questions for the Record from Senator John W. Hickenlooper

Question 1: FERC Order No. 1920 (issued in May of 2024) is a landmark transmission planning rule that will reduce grid bottlenecks, lower electricity costs, and support increased load growth. The original order was then modified on a unanimous, bipartisan basis in Orders No. 1920-A and 1920-B, which clarified and strengthened the role of state regulators in the planning and cost allocation processes.

As transmission providers continue to submit compliance filings, the role of FERC in overseeing implementation will be critical.

Which areas do you think FERC should insist on robust compliance of Order 1920 as modified and which areas should FERC take a more flexible approach? Please explain.

Answer: To avoid prejudging filings on compliance with Order No. 1920 that will come before the Commission, I am reluctant to prematurely address how the Commission should approach those filings. In general, however, utilities are expected to comply with a final rule including the final Order No. 1920 rule as modified. FERC precedent provides an avenue for a transmission provider to explain why its compliance proposal is reasonable to address certain transmission provider-specific or regional circumstances. Any such proposal will be considered on a case-by-case basis. More generally, however, by promoting thoughtful, long-term transmission planning, including vital input from states that are primarily responsible for transmission siting, Order No. 1920 will contribute to keeping energy prices affordable and the grid reliable. In my current term, and if I am fortunate to be confirmed for a new term, I commit to working with my colleagues to ensure proper implementation of this important rule, including ensuring that any compliance proposal is appropriately tailored and justified.

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Question for the Record from Senator Alex Padilla

Question 1: During your first nominations hearing, I asked you whether we needed more electrons on the grid given rising demand and increasing prices. You agreed, stating that we need more reliable and affordable energy, not less. Earlier this month, you testified before the House Energy and Commerce Committee, noting that FERC must protect American consumers from unjust rates. Can you confirm that you support a tech-neutral approach to getting electrons on the grid?

Answer: As I noted in my testimony to this Committee on Wednesday and again above, I agree that we need every electron available to us. My north star is ensuring a reliable grid at affordable prices. The shorter we are on generation, the higher the prices may become for consumers. This means that we need to get more steel in the ground, not just for renewables but also thermal, nuclear, storage, hydroelectric plants, gas infrastructure, electric transmission infrastructure, etc. And, we must do so as swiftly as possible.

The Commission is resource neutral as required by law. It is the jurisdiction of each state to choose its resource mix. I commit to you to remain resource neutral, as is my legal duty.

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Questions for the Record Submitted to Mr. Pearce

Questions for the Record from Senator Ron Wyden

Question 1: Mr. Pearce: You have frequently expressed the belief that the federal government owns too much land in the West. Do you continue to believe that to be the case?

What conditions do you believe should be put on any public land transfer out of federal ownership? Should the entity receiving the land have to pre-fund wildfire fighting efforts, for example?

Response: As I stated at my hearing, from my time in office I understand the sensitivity of transferring parcels of land out of federal ownership and recognize the importance of the views of local stakeholders in such decisions. If confirmed, I will work with local communities, leaders and tribes to figure out what makes sense in their state and invite members of Congress and federal partners to also share their perspectives with me. The transfer of public lands is governed by laws enacted by Congress and if confirmed, I will follow the law.

Question 2: Mr. Pearce: The Bureau of Land Management has noticed an intent to update resource management plans in western Oregon. Will you commit to ensuring that any new resource management plan or resource management plan amendment complies with all existing environmental laws and does not jeopardize the continued existence of any species?

Response: I am not familiar with the actions of BLM related to resource management plans in western Oregon. However, I am aware that BLM manages over 2 million acres in western Oregon, which includes working forests. If confirmed, I commit to learning more about the resources in this area and will ensure that these public lands are appropriately managed.

Question 3: Mr. Pearce: For decades the Land & Water Conservation Fund has served as one of our best conservation tools and has helped more American's access public lands to hunt, fish, hike, reconnect with nature and so much more. The program enjoys broad support from more than 90% of Americans, yet this administration has created hurdles at every turn for the program. Mr. Pearce, Secretarial Order 3442 has caused locally popular land acquisition projects in rural areas to be delayed and in some cases even stopped entirely.

How would you consider strategic land acquisitions using the Land and Water Conservation Fund? Would you be willing to work with Secretary Burgum to change SO 3442 to ensure local voices are not vetoed by outside interests?

Response: I appreciate that the Land and Water Conservation Fund program has supported access to hunting, fishing and recreation access on BLM-managed lands, among other activities. As I stated at my hearing, I think one of the more important elements of any decision is local input. Custom and culture are known by the people who live in an area, very seldom known by the people in Washington, and I am committed to working with local stakeholders and tribes to ensure our public land managers are making decisions

based on local needs, in accordance with the law. If confirmed, the views and interests of local communities will be a key factor guiding my actions.

Question 4: Mr. Pearce, do you believe that resource management plans, which guide how the Bureau balances the many multiple uses of federal lands, including energy development and hunting and fishing, should qualify as 'rules' under the Congressional Review Act?

If so, what is the legal basis for your determination that resource management plans constitute a federal rule?

Should RMPs be subject to Congressional repeal using the Congressional Review Act considering the lengthy process used to develop these plans in a way that includes input and voices from a full variety of local interests?

Response: I am aware that Congress passed, and the President signed into law, a number of resolutions that nullified BLM rules related to resource management plans under the Congressional Review Act. However, I am not a lawyer and am not familiar with the legal nuances of the Congressional Review Act. If I am confirmed, I look forward to learning more about this issue.

Question 5: Mr. Pearce: Over the last 10 years the BLM has worked hard to integrate wildfire staff and natural resources staff to ensure fire and resources are co-managed for better outcomes in our rangelands.

How do you intend to ensure that the new Wildland Fire Service continues to integrate invasive annual grass treatments, hazardous fuels treatments, and post-fire restoration services with fire suppression services?

Response: I have seen first-hand the devastating impacts of wildfire on communities, the local economy and our public lands. I believe that proper forest management is one of the key tools to address wildfire risk. While I am not at the Department, my general understanding is that the purpose of the U.S. Wildland Fire Service is to streamline decision making, improve operational efficiency and enhance the Department's ability to respond quickly and effectively to wildfire threats, goals that I strongly support. If confirmed, I intend to work closely with the Secretary, the U.S. Wildland Fire Service and our dedicated BLM employees to ensure that we are meeting our mission and protecting our public lands.

Question 6: Mr. Pearce: In many states the BLM's workforce has been reduced 30-40% in the past year. BLM faces further staff losses because of the DOI Wildland Fire reorganization. Under these conditions, how can the BLM fulfill its mission to the American people and what do you plan to do to ensure the BLM has an adequate, well trained, and properly funded work force?

Response: I have worked closely with federal employees throughout my career and understand their important role in implementing the BLM's mission. Together with these dedicated public servants, we have accomplished many amazing things. If confirmed, I will get briefed on staffing and commit to ensuring that we have the staff and resources needed to meet the BLM's mission and implement the President's policy goals.

Question 7: Mr. Pearce: Outdoor recreation contributes over $1 trillion annually to the U.S. economy. How will you account for impacts and protect the recreation-based economic activity in all land management decisions?

Response: Hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation activities are important parts of the BLM's multiple-use mission. As I stated at my hearing, these activities may be drivers of one local economy, while in another area, oil and gas does so. And another has national parks and monuments. If confirmed I will work to ensure that the BLM implements its multiple use and sustained yield mandate with the input of local communities and in accordance with law.

Question 8: Mr. Pearce: Stakeholders across the West, including state wildlife agencies, Tribal governments, outdoor recreation businesses, and conservation organizations, have raised concerns that land-use and leasing decisions are often made without a clearly articulated, publicly accessible framework explaining how tradeoffs between conservation, recreation, and extraction are evaluated. The absence of a transparent decision-making standard can undermine public trust, create regulatory uncertainty for businesses, and expose the agency to litigation. To ensure accountability and consistency in how "multiple use" is applied, would you commit to publishing a written, publicly accessible framework outlining the objective criteria and weighting process the Bureau of Land Management uses to evaluate tradeoffs between oil and gas development, wildlife habitat protection, and recreation access — yes or no?

If not, please explain why such transparency would not be appropriate for a public trust agency.

Response: The BLM's multiple use and sustained yield mandate provides that the public lands can be available for activities ranging from hunting and fishing, to grazing, to oil and gas development, among other activities. Should I be confirmed, I commit to seeking input from local communities and stakeholders and ensuring decisions are made appropriately in accordance with the laws Congress has passed for their management.

Questions for the Record from Senator Catherine Cortez Masto

Question 1: For years, I have heard from constituents that BLM is understaffed and under resourced. These gaps are major impediments to BLM completing its necessary work in the state. Buyout offers, mass layoffs with short notice, and inconsistent firing and hiring policies have caused mass uncertainty and certainly don't support the agency's mission.

What is your intent in terms of staffing the BLM? Will you ensure the agency has the staffing necessary to fulfill its important work?

Will you implement a moratorium on additional staff reductions at BLM and to rehire the staff and positions who are vital to managing our natural resources and ensuring visitors are safe on our public lands?

What do these staff cuts mean for Nevadans and others who rely on BLM staff, such as ranchers who need grazing permits, businesses who need recreation permits, other companies who rely on BLM permits and leases and communities who rely on BLM resources and expertise?

What impacts do workforce uncertainties have on public safety, visitor experience, and regional economic impact? How will you ensure these critical services and roles are maintained?

Response: I have worked closely with federal employees throughout my career and understand their role in implementing the BLM's mission. As I am not yet at the Department, I am not familiar with the details of BLM's current staffing. If confirmed, I will get briefed on this issue and commit to ensuring that we have the staff and resources needed to meet the BLM's mission and accomplish the President's policy goals.

Question 2: In implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, the Biden Administration enacted criteria when reviewing public land for potential oil and gas leasing to ensure new leases are close to existing infrastructure or have high potential for oil and gas production. This criteria correctly prioritized leasing on land that is most likely to produce revenue for taxpayers, but would also reduce land speculation

Would you agree that speculative oil & gas lease holders are a drain on agency resources and that holding low potential land is a wasteful management tactic for land that could be otherwise used for more valuable purposes?

Would you agree that some lands should be prioritized for other uses, such as hunting, fishing, grazing, mining, recreation or habitat preservation over other uses like oil and gas leasing?

Would you agree that the purpose of leasing low and no potential lands is NOT to promote America's energy independence, but rather it is to pad investment portfolios?

For what reasons would officials that oversee the country's oil and gas leasing program, such as the BLM, want to have lands like these made available for oil and gas leasing?

Will you ensure that our public lands are managed to reduce speculative oil and gas leasing and other spurious activity taking place on our public lands?

Would you uphold existing policies that prohibit leasing on public lands with no or low potential for development?

Response: Energy development on public lands is critical to American energy independence, national security and economic prosperity, and I support the efforts of President Trump and Secretary Burgum to streamline and reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens to unlock these resources. I also understand and support the BLM's multiple use and sustained yield mandate, recognizing that different lands may be managed differently based on resources and local needs. It is critical that we work with these local communities because that's a voice we have to protect. If confirmed, I commit to ensuring that public lands are managed in accordance with the law.

Question 3: If confirmed, will you commit to working with the BLM's State Office in Nevada to create a statewide Resource Management Plan?

Response: As stated at my hearing, I commit to be a willing partner on looking at this issue and working with local communities.

Questions for the Record from Senator John W. Hickenlooper

Question 1: Massive cuts to the federal government's public lands workforce have many Coloradans concerned about implications for management of our lands and resources. Colorado is the hardest hit amongst all states – we lost 26% of our federal land managers across all DOI agencies and the Forest Service last year. Recent reporting shows that BLM lost 18% of its workforce last year amidst DOGE cuts. BLM staff cuts in Colorado are even worse: down 36%.

- How will losing a third of BLM staff impact stewardship of our public lands?
- How do you propose to issue permits, provide for safe recreation, and protect our public lands with a depleted workforce?

Response: As I mentioned during the hearing, my approach as a leader is to look forward and focus on the work ahead of us. If confirmed, I look forward to learning more about staffing at BLM and commit to ensuring that we have the staff and resources needed to meet the BLM's mission and implement the President's policy goals.

Question 2: How will you ensure that BLM's interpretation of the "multiple use and sustained yield" mandate meaningfully balances recreation, habitat protection, grazing, and energy development in rural western landscapes — rather than prioritizing any single use?

Response: I believe we can and must balance the different uses of public lands as provided in BLM's multiple use and sustained yield mandate. During my time representing the 2nd District of New Mexico, I saw many examples of what multiple use means to local communities. I believe that public lands can be managed in a manner that supports traditional land uses, conserves natural spaces, and allows for energy and mineral development. By striking the right balance we can support local economies, provide energy

independence, and ensure the public lands meet the needs of the present moment as well as future generations.

Question 3: How will you support and expand volunteer stewardship programs on BLM lands, and what role do you see community-based organizations playing in supporting our public lands?

Response: Successful public land management requires collaborating with a variety of stakeholders, including volunteers and community-based organizations. I understand that local communities are deeply interested in the work of the BLM as it affects their everyday lives, and, if confirmed, I am committed to working with these communities.

Question 4: What is your long-term vision for BLM's role in supporting rural western communities that depend on public lands for all of the uses captured by BLM's multiple use mandate, including for recreation, watershed health, and robust wildlife habitat?

Response: I believe we can have healthy and productive public lands that support traditional land uses and provide for energy development, timber harvesting, grazing, and recreation, including hunting and fishing. I'm committed to being a willing partner and supporting rural western communities that depend on public lands as a vital part of their economy, livelihoods, and culture. If confirmed, I will be focused on ensuring that BLM is able to manage public lands working with these local communities in manner that meets its multiple use and sustained yield mandates.

Questions for the Record from Senator Alex Padilla

Question 1: The Conservation and Landscape Health Rule, known as the Public Lands Rule, reaffirms BLM's mandate to support the principles of multiple-use and sustained yield. This rule places on equal footing all the uses under BLM's authority and helps the agency restore degraded landscapes, conserve intact habitats, plan for responsible development, and protect cultural and natural resources. However, the Trump Administration is working to rescind this rule, despite overwhelming opposition to its rescission. If confirmed, you will be tasked with carrying out the Public Lands Rule rescission. Given this, how can we trust that you will put conservation on an equal footing as BLM's other mandated uses?

Response: As I stated at my hearing, I have seen firsthand the importance of our public lands and support those missions completely. Growing up on a small farm, the concept of preserving and conserving the land and water was instilled in me through necessity. If confirmed, I commit to ensuring that public lands are managed in accordance with the law.

Question 2: As has been the case with most federal agencies, BLM has suffered from severe staffing cuts by this Administration that have made it even harder for the agency to carry out its work. In my home state, the BLM's Ukiah Field Office in Mendocino County – which manages

the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument – has been adversely affected by high staff turnover and consistent vacancies. In the past few years alone, multiple individuals have held the position of Monument Manager, and the ongoing cuts to staff will make the work of the BLM even harder. If confirmed, are you committed to protecting BLM from further staffing cuts, which would make their work nearly impossible?

Response: Throughout my career, I have worked closely with federal employees and appreciate their role in implementing the BLM's mission. As I am not yet at the Department, I am not familiar with the details of staffing this office. If confirmed, I will get briefed on staffing and commit to ensuring that we have the staff and resources needed to meet the BLM's mission and accomplish the President's policy goals.

On 1/23/26, 3:11 PM, "Thomas Bearden" <tebearden@me.com <mailto:tebearden@me.com>> wrote:

Thomas E. Bearden
P.O. Box 336933
Greeley, CO 80633

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman
The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

As a former employee of Stevan Pearce, it is my honor to express my strong support for his nomination as Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) by President Donald J. Trump.

Mr. Pearce brings more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this vital role. I first met him in 1998 when he served in the NM House of Representatives. At the time, he represented Lea County in the NM Legislature; I was a resident of nearby Carlsbad, NM. At the time, I worked as a federal contractor at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), a project that Rep. Pearce supported. We worked together on several projects of mutual interest, and I came to admire his leadership skills.

In the spring of 2002, I had the pleasure to work for him on his first campaign for Congress. Mr. Pearce and his wife Cynthia are wonderful people; I was delighted to be part of the team. He was elected that year, and went on to serve in New Mexico's 2nd Cong. District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019).

Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy with strong emphasis on the "multiple use and sustainable yield" mission, and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development.

As a retired federal contractor, I am convinced that Mr. Pearce can lead the federal workforce at BLM with integrity, cooperation and collaboration—principles Mr. Pearce will champion in his leadership at BLM. I urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this this important mission on behalf of the American people.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Bearden, PE
Retired Engineer and Federal Contractor

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman
The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

As the Chairman of the Eddy County Board of County Commissioners, it is my honor to express strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would be bringing more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this vital role. He represented New Mexico's 2nd District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019), served in the New Mexico House of Representatives and has held other elected and appointed positions.

More importantly, he brings private sector and a real word understanding and experience to this role. Mr. Pearce brings the experience of a small business owner that serviced Oil and Gas wells in the Lea County NM which is the number #1 oil producing county in the country. He understands the importance the role the BLM plays to not only our natural resources, land, communities, but to our people and their futures as well.

Eddy County is home to more industries than most from the farming and ranching that started our county, to our mining and potash industry which helped grow the community, to our now every booming oil and gas industry which has allowed our county to flourish, we are committed to keeping Eddy County and it's industries pointed in the right direction. I am confident that Mr. Pearce will be the leader that the BLM needs to help us achieve our goals.

We urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this important role on behalf of the American People.
Thank you for your leadership, sacrifice, and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bo Bowen
Chairman BOCC- District 4
Eddy County Board of County Commissioners

Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

From KT Homes Office <office@kthomes.com>
Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:32 AM
To KT Homes Office <office@kthomes.com>

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

I Daniel Fernandez, as the manager of Ken Thurston Development , LLC and KT HOMES it is my honor to express strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would bring more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this vital role. He represented New Mexico's 2nd District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019), served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and has held other elected and appointed positions. He also brings private sector experience as the owner of a small business that specialized in servicing oil and gas wells in Lea County, New Mexico, the #1 oil producing county in the country. His combined public service and private sector background uniquely position him to lead the BLM effectively from day one.

Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy with strong emphasis on the "multiple use and sustainable yield" mission, and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development.

The companies of Ken Thurston Development, LLC and KT HOMES are committed to advancing a future where building affordable homes continues to drive economic growth, ensure energy reliability, and foster innovation. By collaborating with industry leaders and communities, we aim to achieve these objectives and secure a thriving future for America and Americans. As an organization, the Ken Thurston Development, LLC and KT HOMES cherish sustainability, cooperation, and collaboration—principles we are confident Mr. Pearce will champion in his leadership of the BLM.

We urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this this important mission on behalf of the American people.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Fernandez
Manager
Ken Thurston Development, LLC and KT HOMES

Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

From KT Homes Office <office@kthomes.com>
Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:34 AM
To KT Homes Office <office@kthomes.com>

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

As the owner of the Ken Thurston Development LLC, it is my honor to express strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would bring more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this vital role. He represented New Mexico's 2nd District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019), served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and has held other elected and appointed positions. He also brings private sector experience as the owner of a small business that specialized in servicing oil and gas wells in Lea County, New Mexico, the #1 oil producing county in the country. His combined public service and private sector background uniquely position him to lead the BLM effectively from day one.

Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy with strong emphasis on the "multiple use and sustainable yield" mission, and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development.

The Ken Thurston Development is committed to advancing a future where the building of homes continues to drive economic growth, ensure energy reliability, and foster innovation. By collaborating with industry leaders and communities, we aim to achieve these objectives and secure a thriving future for America and Americans. As an organization, the Ken Thurston Development, LLC cherishes sustainability, cooperation, and collaboration—principles we are confident Mr. Pearce will champion in his leadership of the BLM.

We urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this this important mission on behalf of the American people.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ken Thurston
Owner
Ken Thurston Development, LLC

Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

From KT Homes Office <office@kthomes.com>
Date Fri 1/23/2026 9:31 AM
To KT Homes Office <office@kthomes.com>

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

I Joe Koerper am the marketing sales director of Ken Thurston Development , LLC and KT HOMES it is my honor to express strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would bring more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this vital role. He represented New Mexico's 2nd District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019), served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and has held other elected and appointed positions. He also brings private sector experience as the owner of a small business that specialized in servicing oil and gas wells in Lea County, New Mexico, the #1 oil producing county in the country. His combined public service and private sector background uniquely position him to lead the BLM effectively from day one.

Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy with strong emphasis on the "multiple use and sustainable yield" mission, and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development.

The companies of Ken Thurston Development, LLC and KT HOMES are committed to advancing a future where building affordable homes continues to drive economic growth, ensure energy reliability, and foster innovation. By collaborating with industry leaders and communities, we aim to achieve these objectives and secure a thriving future for America and Americans. As an organization, the Ken Thurston Development, LLC and KT HOMES cherish sustainability, cooperation, and collaboration—principles we are confident Mr. Pearce will champion in his leadership of the BLM.

We urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this this important mission on behalf of the American people.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Koerper
Marketing Sales Manager
Ken Thurston Development, LLC and KT HOMES

From: Ghosthiker Gmail <ghosthiker@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 12:52 PM
Subject: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Steven Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman
The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:
As Program Director of the Gem Crafters and Explorers Club, it is my honor to express strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Steven Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.
If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would bring more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this vital role. He represented New Mexico's 2nd District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019), served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and has held other elected and appointed positions. He also brings private sector experience as the owner of a small business that specialized in servicing oil and gas wells in Lea County, New Mexico, the #1 oil producing county in the country. His combined public service and private sector background uniquely position him to lead the BLM effectively from day one.
Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy with strong emphasis on the "multiple use and sustainable yield" mission, and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development.
The Gem Crafters and Explorers Club is committed to advancing a future where the hobby of rock and mineral collecting continues to drive economic growth, ensure energy reliability, and foster innovation. By collaborating with industry leaders and communities, we aim to achieve these objectives and secure a thriving future for America and Americans. As an organization, the Gem Crafters and Explorers Club cherishes sustainability, cooperation, and collaboration—principles we are confident Mr. Pearce will champion in his leadership of the BLM.
We urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this this important mission on behalf of the American people.
Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,
Eric Fuller
Program Director
Gem Crafters and Explorers Club

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman
The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

As Editor of the Las Cruces GemCrafters and Explorers Club, it is my honor to express strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would bring more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this vital role. He represented New Mexico's 2nd District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019), served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and has held other elected and appointed positions. He also brings private sector experience as the owner of a small business that specialized in servicing oil and gas wells in Lea County, New Mexico, the #1 oil producing county in the country. His combined public service and private sector background uniquely position him to lead the BLM effectively from day one.

Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy with strong emphasis on the "**multiple use** and sustainable yield" mission, and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development.

As an organization, the Las Cruces GemCrafters and Explorers Club cherishes sustainability, cooperation, and collaboration—principles we are confident Mr. Pearce will champion in his leadership of the BLM.

We urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this this important mission on behalf of the American people.
Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Fuller

Editor

The Las Cruces GemCrafters and Explorers Club

From: Phil Harvey Jr <philharveyjr@comcast.net>
Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 at 12:32 PM
Subject: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman
The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:
As partner in B&H Herefords, it is my honor to express strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management. If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would bring more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this vital role. He represented New Mexico's 2nd District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019), served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and has held other elected and appointed positions. He also brings private sector experience as the owner of a small business that specialized in servicing oil and gas wells in Lea County, New Mexico, the #1 oil producing county in the country. His combined public service and private sector background uniquely position him to lead the BLM effectively from day one.
Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy with strong emphasis on the "multiple use and sustainable yield" mission, and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development.
B&H Herefords is committed to advancing a future where oil & gas, ranching, and farming continue to drive economic growth, enhance food production through high-end, professional cattle breeding, ensure energy reliability, and foster innovation. By collaborating with industry leaders and communities, we aim to achieve these objectives and secure a thriving future for America and Americans. As an organization, we cherish multiple use, sustainability, cooperation, and collaboration—principles we are confident Mr. Pearce will champion in his leadership of the BLM.
We urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this this important mission on behalf of the American people.
Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

E.P. Harvey, Jr. Partner
B&H Herefords

From: Fred Huff <fhuff@zianet.com>
Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 1:16 PM
Subject: Support for nomination of Steve Pearce to head the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:
As a citizen of New Mexico who uses our public lands, it is my honor to express strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.
If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would bring more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this vital role. He represented New Mexico's 2nd District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019), served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and has held other elected and appointed positions. He also brings private sector experience as the owner of a small business that specialized in servicing oil and gas wells in Lea County, New Mexico, the #1 oil producing county in the country. His combined public service and private sector background uniquely position him to lead the BLM effectively from day one.
Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy with strong emphasis on the "multiple use and sustainable yield" mission, and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development.
I fully support advancing a future where our public lands continue being used for oil & gas extraction, ranching, mining, and farming. These industries continue to drive economic growth, ensure energy reliability, and foster innovation. By collaborating with these industry leaders and communities, America can remain energy independent.
As a citizen who worked for Mr. Pearce when he was my Congressman, I am confident that Mr. Pearce will be a champion in his leadership of the BLM for the greater good of all Americans.
I urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this important mission on behalf of the American people.
Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,
Fred D. Huff
Las Cruces, NM

From: Lynda Huff <lhuff@zianet.com>
Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 2:24 PM
Subject: Letter of recommendation for nomination of Steve Pearce to head the BLM

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman
The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:
It is my honor to express strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.
If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would bring more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this vital role. He represented New Mexico's 2nd District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019), served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and has held other elected and appointed positions. He also brings private sector experience as the owner of a small business that specialized in servicing oil and gas wells in Lea County, New Mexico, the #1 oil producing county in the country. His combined public service and private sector background uniquely position him to lead the BLM effectively from day one.

Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy with strong emphasis on the "multiple use and sustainable yield" mission, and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development.

I urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this this important mission on behalf of the American people.
Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynda M Huff

JALAPENO CORPORATION
P.O.BOX 1608
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103
PHONE: 505- 242- 2050
FAX: 505- 242-8501

JANUARY 27, 2026

RE: Support for Mr. Pearce

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of my company to whole heartedly support Steve Pearce and his nomination to lead the BLM. I have known Mr. Pearce to be an honorable man with the knowledge necessary to run the BLM in an efficient and thoughtful way. With his leadership, I believe the BLM will be run in such a way that the American people will greatly benefit.

Sincerely,

H. Emmons Yates III

VP JALAPENO CORP

BOARD PRESIDENT-IPANM

MESILLA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION
LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO
EL PASO, TEXAS

January 22, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman
The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Steve Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

As President and Chief Executive Officer of Mesilla Valley Transportation of Las Cruces, New Mexico, it is my honor to express strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Steve Pearce to serve as the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would bring more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this vital role. He represented New Mexico's 2nd District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019), served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and has held other elected and appointed positions. He also brings private sector experience as the owner of a small business that specialized in servicing the oil and gas wells in Lea County, New Mexico, the #1 oil producing county the country. His combined public service and private sector background uniquely positions him to effectively lead the BLM from day one.

Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He had consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy with strong emphasis o the "multiple use and sustainable yield" mission, and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development.

Mesilla Valley Transportation is committed to advancing a future where trucking and transportation continues to drive economic growth, ensure energy reliability, and foster innovation. By collaborating with industry leaders and committees, we aim to achieve these objectives and secure a thriving future for America and Americans. As an organization, Mesilla Valley Transportation cherishes sustainability, cooperation and collaboration, principles we are confident Mr. Pearce will champion in his leadership of BLM.

We urge the committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this important mission on behalf of the American people.

Sincerely,

Royal Jones
President and CEO
Mesilla Valley Transportation

3590 West Picacho Avenue • Las Cruces, NM 88007 • (575) 524-2835 • Fax: (575) 541-4252 • www.m-v-t.com

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman
The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich,

As a community advocate and lifelong New Mexico resident, I am writing to express my strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

Mr. Pearce brings more than three decades of public service experience to this nomination. His time representing New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, along with his service in the New Mexico House of Representatives, reflects a deep commitment to the people of our state. His background as a small business owner in Lea County also gives him practical insight into the needs of working families, job creators, and rural communities that depend on responsible land and energy management.

Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a clear understanding of the balance required under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. He has consistently supported policies that encourage economic growth, energy reliability, and environmental responsibility, while respecting the principle of multiple use and sustainable yield that is central to the Bureau of Land Management's mission.

I believe Mr. Pearce is uniquely qualified to lead the BLM at a time when cooperation between federal agencies, states, local governments, and communities is more important than ever. His leadership style reflects accountability, collaboration, and a strong respect for the communities most directly affected by federal land decisions.

I respectfully urge the Committee and the United States Senate to confirm Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this important role on behalf of the American people.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Miriam Leyva
Community Advocate
New Mexico

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman
The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich,

As a community leader and business owner in Southern New Mexico, I am writing to express my strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would bring more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this critical role. He represented New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District for 14 years, served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and held various elected and appointed leadership positions. In addition, his experience as a small business owner in Lea County, New Mexico, the nation's leading oil-producing county, provides him with firsthand understanding of the private sector and the realities faced by working families, producers, and local communities.

Mr. Pearce has consistently demonstrated a strong grasp of the cooperative federalism framework established under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. Throughout his career, he has shown the ability to balance responsible resource development with environmental stewardship, while respecting the importance of multiple use and sustainable yield.

As someone deeply invested in the economic health of New Mexico and the Southwest, I believe Mr. Pearce's leadership will strengthen collaboration between federal agencies, local governments, industry, and communities. His commitment to cooperation, accountability, and practical problem-solving makes him exceptionally well-qualified to lead the Bureau of Land Management.

I respectfully urge the Committee and the United States Senate to move forward with Mr. Pearce's confirmation so he may serve the American people in this important capacity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christian Lira
Community Leader and Business Owner
New Mexico

Douglas L. Lunsford
P. O. Box 806
Roswell, NM 88202-0806

February 9, 2026

Via Regular Mail and
Electronic Mail to
Belle_Neilson@energy.senate.gov
Administrative Assistant of the U.S. Senate
Committee on Energy & Natural Resources

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Attention: Judy

Re: Support for the Nomination of Stevan Pearce for Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

As an attorney practicing natural resources law in Roswell, New Mexico, for fifty (50) years, it is my honor to express strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management. I first met him as a ROTC cadet at New Mexico State University in 1968. He was the ROTC commander and subsequently served with distinction and honor in Vietnam.

If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would bring more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this vital role. He represented New Mexico's 2nd District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019), served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and has held other elected and appointed positions. He also brings private sector experience as the owner of a small business that specialized in servicing oil and gas wells in Lea County, New Mexico, the #1 oil producing county in the country. His combined public service and private sector background uniquely position him to lead the BLM effectively from day one.

Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy with strong emphasis on the "multiple use and sustainable yield" mission, and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development. His position these issues has been vital for my law practice and the well being of the oil and gas industry in Southeast New Mexico.

The oil and gas industry is committed to advancing a future where it continues to drive economic growth, ensure energy reliability, and foster innovation. By collaborating with industry leaders and communities, this industry aims to achieve these objectives and secure a thriving future for America and Americans. The oil and gas industry cherishes sustainability, cooperation, and I am confident Mr. Pearce will champion these principals in his leadership of the BLM.

I urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this this important mission on behalf of the American people.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Yours very truly,

Douglas L. Lunsford

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Submitted electronically to:
Belle_Neilson@energy.senate.gov
Administrative Assistant of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources

February 27, 2026

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce
for Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

As *Chair of the Republican Party of Eddy County in New Mexico,* it is my honor to express strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would bring more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this vital role. He represented New Mexico's 2nd District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019), served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and has held other elected and appointed positions. He also brings private sector experience as the owner of a small business that specialized in servicing oil and gas wells in Lea County, New Mexico, the #1 oil producing county in the country. His combined public service and private sector background uniquely position him to lead the BLM effectively from day one.

Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy with strong emphasis on the "multiple use and sustainable yield" mission, and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development.

The *Republican Party of Eddy County* is committed to advancing a future where *oil & gas, farming and ranching* continues to drive economic growth, ensure energy reliability, and foster innovation. By collaborating with industry leaders and communities, we aim to achieve these objectives and secure a thriving future for America and Americans. As an organization, the *Republican Party of Eddy County* cherishes sustainability, cooperation, and collaboration—principles we are confident Mr. Pearce will champion in his leadership of the BLM.

We urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this this important mission on behalf of the American people.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robin Morgan
Chair
Republican Party of Eddy County, New Mexico

New Mexico Federal Lands Council
3417 Avenida Charada NW / Albuquerque NM 87107
Phone: 575.590.7587
Email: newmexicofederallandscouncil@gmail.com

March 3, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Hearing Vote for Mr. Stevan Pearce to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

The New Mexico Federal Lands Council (NMFLC) writes again in support of Steve Pearce as Director for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The NMFLC represents federal and state trust lands ranchers in New Mexico and the West.

Mr. Pearce has deep knowledge and appreciation of natural resources and their value. He is aware of the energy production our country depends upon as well as the rich protein supply that comes from our ranching lands comes from the ground. Today as our country is at war and oil being one of the prizes, his acute awareness of these national security issues are more important than ever. We have worked with Mr. Pearce as he served in the New Mexico State Legislature and then Congress.

Mr. Pearce has long been a champion for rural communities. His business background and military discipline have aided him in making and executing decisions and plans that aide people living on and from the land. He has been a champion of the Native American community, the sportsman community and border security.

Serving as chairman of the House Western Caucus gave Mr. Pearce the opportunity to learn about issues facing the states represented by the Caucus.

The accomplishments of Steve Pearce go on but suffice it to say that he is uniquely qualified for the position of Director of the BLM. We encourage the passage of his nomination.

Sincerely,
Ty Bays
President
New Mexico Federal Lands Council

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman
The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Steve Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

As CEO of J&T Enterprises, it is my honor to express strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Steve Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management. If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would bring more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this vital role. He represented New Mexico's 2nd District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019), served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and has held other elected and appointed positions. He also brings private sector experience as the owner of a small business that specialized in servicing oil and gas wells in Lea County, New Mexico, the #1 oil producing county in the country. His combined public service and private sector background uniquely position him to lead the BLM effectively from day one.

Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy with strong emphasis on the "multiple use and sustainable yield" mission and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development. I have heard him speak on this other topics and personally support his position and views.

My engineering consulting firm is committed to advancing a future where aerospace, oil & gas, and agriculture all continue to drive economic growth, ensure energy reliability, and foster innovation. By collaborating with industry leaders and communities, we aim to achieve these objectives and secure a thriving future for America and Americans. As an organization, we support sustainability, cooperation, and collaboration—principles we are confident that Mr. Pearce will champion in his leadership of the BLM. We urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this this important mission on behalf of the American people. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Noble
Chief Executive Officer J&T Enterprises
Professional Engineer State of New Mexico License # 6438

NSSGA®
NATIONAL STONE, SAND & GRAVEL ASSOCIATION

February 25, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich,

On behalf of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA), I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Mr. Steve Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Mr. Pearce brings significant experience in federal policymaking and a deep understanding of the role public lands play in supporting economic growth. During his service in the U.S. House of Representatives representing New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District from 2003–2009 and 2011–2019, he engaged extensively on issues affecting Western communities, including energy production, mineral development and land management. His background reflects a practical understanding of how federal policy decisions impact local economies and infrastructure development.

The BLM manages vast areas of federal land that are critical to the production of aggregates—stone, sand and gravel—which are essential materials used to build and maintain roads, bridges, schools, housing, utilities and other public works. Responsible access to mineral resources on public lands is fundamental to meeting the nation's infrastructure needs in a cost-effective and timely manner. At the same time, these lands must be stewarded carefully under the multiple-use mandate established by Congress.

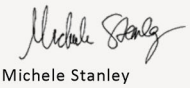
NSSGA supports a balanced approach to public land management that ensures regulatory clarity, predictable permitting and coordination with state and local governments, while maintaining environmental safeguards. We believe Mr. Pearce

understands the importance of this balance and will provide steady leadership grounded in statutory authority and practical experience.

A well-functioning BLM is essential to keeping infrastructure projects moving, strengthening domestic supply chains and supporting thousands of jobs in local communities across the country. Mr. Pearce's experience working with federal agencies, stakeholders and members of Congress positions him to lead the agency effectively and uphold its multiple-use mission.

For these reasons, NSSGA urges you to support his confirmation as director of the Bureau of Land Management. We appreciate your consideration and stand ready to work with you and Mr. Pearce to advance policies that ensure responsible land management and reliable access to the materials that build America.

Sincerely,



Michele Stanley
President & CEO
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman
The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich,

As General Manager of At-Home Personal Care Services LLC, it is my honor to express my strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would bring more than three decades of distinguished public service to this critical role. He represented New Mexico's Second Congressional District for 14 years, served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and has held multiple elected and appointed positions at both the state and federal levels. In addition, he brings valuable private-sector experience as a small business owner who worked directly in New Mexico's energy-producing regions. This combination of public service and real-world business experience uniquely positions him to lead the Bureau of Land Management effectively from day one.

I have known Mr. Pearce for more than 12 years, and during that time he has consistently demonstrated a genuine commitment to serving New Mexico's communities, including my own community of Sunland Park. He understands that sound federal land management policies play a critical role in supporting local economies, protecting jobs, and providing long-term stability for families and businesses across our state even in industries not directly regulated by the BLM. His leadership approach recognizes that strong communities depend on balanced, responsible land-use decisions.

Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has shown a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism framework established under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. He has consistently supported a balanced approach that promotes responsible development, environmental stewardship, and collaboration among federal agencies, states, local governments, and stakeholders.

At-Home Personal Care Services LLC is committed to strengthening communities by supporting working families, promoting economic stability, and ensuring access to essential services. We value leadership that prioritizes cooperation, sustainability, and thoughtful decision-making principles we are confident Mr. Pearce will bring to his leadership of the Bureau of Land Management.

I respectfully urge the Committee and the full U.S. Senate to act swiftly to confirm Mr. Pearce so he may continue serving the American people in this important role.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Salinas
General Manager
At-Home Personal Care Services LLC

The Sanborn Map Company, Inc.
305 S. Rockrimmon Blvd, Suite 200
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
www.sanborn.com

February 25, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Office Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

I am writing on behalf of The Sanborn Map Company, Inc. (Sanborn), where I serve as Owner and Chief Executive Officer, to express my enthusiastic support for the nomination of Mr. Kyle Haustveit to serve as Under Secretary of Energy at the Department of Energy (DOE). As a leader in the geospatial industry with over 150 years of experience delivering innovative remote sensing and mapping solutions to the U.S. government, Sanborn has a vested interest in the programs and activities that Mr. Haustveit will oversee; specifically, Sanborn has longstanding involvement with and interest in the DOE Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office (HGEO), which oversees[1] the Undocumented Orphaned Well (UOW) Research Program.

Given Mr. Haustveit's current role as the Assistant Secretary for HGEO, he will have unique awareness, expertise, and familiarity with the importance of developing the technologies and methodologies to enable the finding and characterization of UOWs. Doing so requires determining their physical locations, methane emissions, wellbore integrity, and corresponding detectable environmental interactions and impacts. All of these activities involve and require the expertise and capabilities of entities such as Sanborn, which stands ready to offer innovative concept solutions to solve the problem of how to better (more rapidly, efficiently) identify UOWs and improve management outcomes with state-of-the-art geospatial tools and analysis.

Sanborn looks forward to working with Mr. Haustveit and other key DOE collaborative stakeholders (e.g. U.S. Geological Survey, National Labs) to find commonsense, innovative solutions to the challenges before HGEO and the Office of the Undersecretary. I urge the Committee to confirm Mr. Haustveit without delay. His confirmation will not only advance DOE's strategic priorities but also reinforce the geospatial sector's role in supporting shared nationwide, bipartisan goals like UOW cataloging. Thank you for your leadership on these matters and for considering this letter in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

John Copple

John Copple
Owner and Chief Executive Officer
The Sanborn Map Company, Inc.

1

From: JOAN SCHERER <joanescherer@msn.com>
Date: Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 7:35 PM
Subject: Support for the Nomination Of Steve Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman
The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

As Treasurer and Election Integrity Team Chair of the Coalition of Conservatives In Action (CCIA), it is my honor to express strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would bring more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this vital role. He represented New Mexico's 2nd District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019), served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and has held other elected and appointed positions. He also brings private sector experience as the owner of a small business that specialized in servicing oil and gas wells in Lea County, New Mexico, the #1 oil producing county in the country. His combined public service and private sector background uniquely position him to lead the BLM effectively from day one.

Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy with strong emphasis on the "multiple use and sustainable yield" mission, and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development.

The CCIA is committed to advancing a future where the oil and gas industry continues to drive economic growth, ensure energy reliability, and foster innovation. By collaborating with industry leaders and communities, we aim to achieve these objectives and secure a thriving future for America and Americans. As an organization, the CCIA cherishes sustainability, cooperation, and collaboration—principles we are confident Mr. Pearce will champion in his leadership of the BLM.

We urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this this important mission on behalf of the American people.
Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Joan E. Scherer
Treasurer & Election Integrity Team Chair
Coalition of Conservatives In Action

Regards,

Joan E. Scherer, CPC, QPA, QKC, QKA, ERPA
PENSION ADMINISTRATION & CONSULTING SERVICES
5031 Alamo Mine Trail
Las Cruces, NM 88011
(575) 649-8970

New Mexico State Senate
STATE CAPITOL
Santa Fe 87501

January 27, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich,

On behalf of the undersigned Republican state senators from New Mexico, we write to express our **strong support for the nomination of Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**.

Mr. Pearce's long record of public service and deep roots in the Western United States uniquely position him to lead an agency with oversight of more than 245 million surface acres and nearly 700 million acres of federal subsurface mineral estate. As a former U.S. Representative from New Mexico, Mr. Pearce has firsthand experience with the diverse land management challenges that impact rural communities, ranchers, energy producers, and outdoor recreationists across the West.

Mr. Pearce's background — as a veteran, businessman in the oilfield services sector, and long-serving lawmaker — gives him a practical understanding of the economic and cultural importance of multiple uses on public lands. His tenure representing New Mexico's Second Congressional District, encompassing significant federal lands and energy interests, demonstrates his familiarity with balancing resource development with community needs.

For example, the BLM plays a vital role in supporting ranching, agriculture, and energy production in New Mexico and throughout the West. National

organizations representing cattle producers and public land users have noted their support for Mr. Pearce's confirmation, citing his grasp of how public lands contribute to local economies and livelihoods.

The position of BLM Director demands a leader who comprehends the complexities of land management policy, regulatory frameworks, and the competing interests inherent to federal public lands. Mr. Pearce's legislative experience, coupled with his deep ties to Western communities, equips him to navigate these challenges and to engage constructively with stakeholders across the country.

For these reasons, we urge your Committee and the U.S. Senate to **promptly confirm Stevan Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management**.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SHARER
State Senator, District 1

NICOLE TOBIASSEN
State Senator, District 21

JIM TOWNSEND
State Senator, District 34

STEVE LANIER
State Senator, District 2

PAT BOONE
State Senator, District 27

CRYSTAL BRANTLEY
State Senator, District 35

PAT WOODS
State Senator, District 7

GABRIEL RAMOS
State Senator, District 28

DAVID GALLEGOS
State Senator, District 41

JAY BLOCK
State Senator, District 12

CANDY EZZELL
State Senator, District 32

LARRY SCOTT
State Senator, District 42

ANT THORNTON
State Senator, District 19

REX WILSON
State Senator, District 33

Ross Townsend
P.O. Box 1598
Carlsbad, NM 88220

1/26/2026

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Steve Pearce

Delivered Via Email: clerk@energy.senate.gov

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

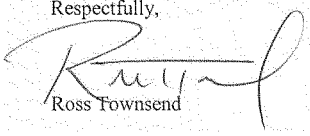
Mr. Chairman,

It is my pleasure to write this letter in strong support of the appointment of Mr. Steve Pearce for BLM Director.

Steve exhibits the highest level of character and professionalism in all his dealings and enjoys an excellent reputation at both the state and federal level.

I strongly endorse Steve Pearce without reservation and believe that he will make a great director.

Respectfully,



Ross Townsend

Gil Moutray
P.O. Box 1598
Carlsbad, NM 88220

1/26/2026

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Steve Pearce

Delivered Via Email: clerk@energy.senate.gov

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

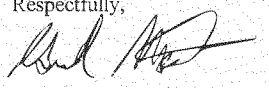
Senator Heinrich,

It is my pleasure to write this letter in strong support of the appointment of Mr. Steve Pearce for BLM Director. I have known Steve for over 40 years and he has excelled throughout his career both professional and political.

Steve exhibits the highest level of character and professionalism in all his dealings and enjoys an excellent reputation at both the state and federal level.

I strongly endorse Steve Pearce without reservation and believe that he will make a great director.

Respectfully,



Gil Moutray

From: jan white <jancwhite@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: jan white <jancwhite@yahoo.com>
Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 at 4:08 PM
Subject: Stevan Pearce

The Honorable Mike Lee, Chairman

The Honorable Martin Heinrich, Ranking Member

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

United States Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce as Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

It is my honor to express strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

If confirmed, Mr. Pearce would bring more than 30 years of distinguished public service to this vital role. He represented New Mexico's 2nd District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019), served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and has held other elected and appointed positions. He also brings private sector experience as the owner of a small business that specialized in servicing oil and gas wells in Lea County, New Mexico, the #1 oil producing county in the country. His combined public service and private sector background uniquely position him to lead the BLM effectively from day one.

Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy

with strong emphasis on the “multiple use and sustainable yield” mission and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development.

I urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this this important mission on behalf of the American people.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jan White
Resident, Dona Ana County NM
jancwhite12@gmail.com

IPA NM
INDEPENDENT PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION OF NEW MEXICO
P.O. Box 6101
Roswell, NM 88202
(575) 622-2566

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

January 27, 2026

Submitted Electronically

Re: Support for the Nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce
for Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

As Executive Director of the Indepenent Petroleum Association of New Mexico, it is my honor to personally express strong support for President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Mr. Stevan Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

First and foremost, Mr. Pearce represents exactly what the BLM needs right now at this critical point in time. This is especially true for independent oil & gas producers in New Mexico and across the country. His private sector experience as the owner of a small business that specialized in servicing oil and gas wells in Lea County, New Mexico, the #1 oil producing county in the country, gives him direct experience working in the field. His story exemplifies our association's members: small business owners starting from scratch to become both stewards of the land they work on while carefully extracting and unleashing the greatest source of energy that our nation offers.

Mr. Pearce coupled his in-the-field business experience with more than 30 years of distinguished public service. He represented New Mexico's 2nd District for 14 years (2003-2009 and 2011-2019), served in the New Mexico House of Representatives, and has held other elected and appointed positions. He also served with distinction in the Vietnam War earning numerous medals and awards defending the land which he is now nominated to oversee.

In short, Mr. Pearce's combined private sector work on public lands and public service background uniquely positions him to lead the BLM effectively from day one.

Throughout his career, Mr. Pearce has demonstrated a deep understanding of the cooperative federalism model envisioned by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). He has consistently balanced the nation's demand for reliable energy with strong emphasis on the "multiple use and sustainable yield" mission, and doing so while constantly minimizing the environmental impact of resource development. Mr. Pearce has demonstrated that an "all of the

IPANM
INDEPENDENT PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION OF NEW MEXICO

P.O. Box 6101
Roswell, NM 88202
(575) 622-2566

above" approach to harnessing American energy in a responsible manner is our nation's most prosperous pathway forward.

The Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico is committed to advancing a future where the oil & gas industry continues to drive economic growth, ensure energy reliability, and foster innovation. By collaborating with industry leaders and communities, we aim to achieve these objectives and secure a thriving future for America and Americans. As an industry trade association, the Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico cherishes sustainability, cooperation, and collaboration—principles we are confident Mr. Pearce will champion in his leadership of the BLM.

We urge the Committee and the U.S. Senate to act swiftly in confirming Mr. Pearce so he may serve in this this important mission on behalf of the American people.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Winchester
Executive Director
Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico
505-933-2070
jimwinchester@ipanm.org

IPANM
INDEPENDENT PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION OF NEW MEXICO

Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico (IPANM) advances and preserves the interests of independent oil and gas producers while educating the public to the importance of oil and gas to the state and all our lives. In the spirit of that tradition, IPANM continues to grow and provide the services that protect, defend, and promote the industry that is the very foundation of our way of life. Independent producers are the core of our membership and board of directors. All 350+ members are proud, independent, loyal, and hardworking.

PROTECT DEFEND PROMOTE

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

On behalf of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) and the Off-Road Business Association (ORBA), I write in strong support of Steve Pearce's nomination to serve as the Director of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) is a non-profit trade association that represents over 7,000 mostly small businesses around the country that drive innovation in the specialty automotive aftermarket industry. SEMA is proud to represent manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and installers of the parts and accessories that are used to customize and modify motor vehicles, including those used off-road. The specialty automotive aftermarket that SEMA represents has a $337 billion annual economic impact and employs over 1.3 million Americans.

The Off-Road Business Association (ORBA), a non-profit business association powered by SEMA, represents companies that manufacture and maintain UTVs, ATVs, and motorcycles. ORBA is a national leader in land use policy and trail advocacy, working to protect motorized access and shape the future of off-highway recreation through education, legislation, and collaboration. ORBA unites manufacturers, retailers, clubs, e-commerce platforms, race organizers, and advocacy groups from across the country with the mission to preserve the rights of off-road users, while promoting environmental conservation and responsible recreation.

SEMA & ORBA members manufacture products that modify and customize trucks, SUVs, and off-road vehicles to make it easier for Americans to enjoy the outdoors. These specialty products include bigger wheels and tires, suspension, lift kits, winches, and lighting products, enhancing

capability, performance, style, and safety; all in the pursuit of helping millions of Americans enjoy the great outdoors.

The BLM oversees approximately 245 million acres of public lands—lands that are central to recreation, multiple-use management, energy development, conservation, and economic vitality. Our members need predictable, balanced, and transparent public land policies to sustain jobs, investment, and access for the millions of Americans who recreate responsibly on BLM lands each year.

Recreation on BLM lands supports small businesses in rural communities across the West, from parts manufacturers and aftermarket innovators to outfitters, event organizers, and businesses that rely on motorized recreational tourism. Sound land management policies that provide certainty and maintain reasonable access are critical to these businesses and the communities they support.

Former U.S. Representative Steve Pearce brings extensive experience in public policy, land management issues, and western economic development. During his tenure in Congress representing New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, Mr. Pearce was an advocate for multiple use, including all types of recreation on public lands, and balancing the competing interests that define BLM-managed lands.

Mr. Pearce understands that conservation and recreation are not mutually exclusive. Through collaborative land-use planning, meaningful stakeholder input, and science-based decision-making, BLM can protect sensitive resources while preserving appropriate access for responsible motorized recreation and other multiple uses consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Mr. Pearce's extensive experience in public land policy and record of advocating for rural America make him the perfect candidate to lead the BLM. SEMA and ORBA respectfully urge the Committee to advance Mr. Pearce's nomination favorably and the Senate to confirm him promptly.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at karenbc@sema.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Karen Bailey-Chapman

Senior Vice President - Public and Government Affairs
Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) & Off-Road Business Association (ORBA)

January 20, 2026
Senator Mike Lee
Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Southern New Mexico Elected Official and Community Leader Opposition to the Nomination ofStevan Pearce for Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich,

As state and local elected officials and community leaders from New Mexico's 2nd congressional district, we know firsthand that our public lands are deeply important to our history, our culture, our community, and our economy, and are therefore critical in sustaining our communities. Given this, we are writing collectively to express our strong opposition to the nomination of Stevan Pearce to be the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Mr. Pearce represented our communities in NM-2 for seven terms in the United States House of Representatives. His record in Congress, including his public support for selling off America's public lands, his conflicts of interest with the oil and gas industry, and his efforts to undermine national monuments and the Antiquities Act, demonstrates that he is the wrong candidate to lead this complex multiple-use agency and the lands that it manages that are so important to our communities.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages vast public resources—245 million acres of land and 700 million acres of mineral estate—under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act's (FLPMA) mandate of "multiple-use and sustained yield". This mandate requires the Director to balance competing demands, from fossil fuel production to conservation and recreation. An effective Director must be a neutral

arbiter of these diverse public interests. Not only is Mr. Pearce is not a neutral arbiter of the many competing demands on our public lands, he is out of step with our communities that are surrounded by public lands and that he used to represent in Congress. One example of this relates to his longstanding opposition to Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. Despite Las Cruces and nearby communities overwhelmingly supporting the creation of this monument, Mr. Pearce consistently opposed its establishment and therefore the will of the people nearest the affected lands. He attempted to use misinformation and fearmongering to sway public opinion related to the monument, falsely claiming its designation would eliminate grazing on BLM lands and undermine border security,among other alleged harms. None of these have come to pass – livestock grazing on the monument continues and the monument itself has had no effect on border security nor ongoing Border Patrol activities.

After its designation to protect world-class historic, prehistoric, scientific, geologic, and ecological values, Mr. Pearce advocated for such a vast reduction of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument that it would have been nearly eliminated. This misguided attempt to shrink the monument was defeated thanks to another vast outpouring of public and community support for the continued protection of all lands included in the monument. Indeed, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument is the pride and joy of our communities. It provides outstanding recreation opportunities, supports growing tourism and economic opportunities generated by visitors from across the United States and internationally, and has led to the creation of many new businesses and jobs. Contrary to overwhelming public opinion, Mr. Pearce has never acknowledged the many benefits of, and widespread public support for, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. Additionally, as the recent budget reconciliation debate proved, there is clear bipartisan support in Congress, and throughout America, for keeping public lands in public hands and for preventing the sale of these lands. Due to his longstanding support for the sale of our public lands Mr. Pearce stands contrary to these shared values. He also brings a conflict of interest stemming from his career in the oil and gas industry and therefore cannot impartially represent the full mission of the BLM.

The nomination of Stevan Pearce to head the BLM is unambiguously contrary to the people and communities from the congressional district that he used to represent. His priorities will center on removing protections from and selling off public lands instead of preserving them for future generations, thereby affecting the wellbeing

of our communities and our growing outdoor recreation economy. ***We urge you to reject this nomination unequivocally.***

Sincerely,

Cassie McClure - Las Cruces City Council
Becki Graham - Las Cruces City Council
Johana Bencomo - Las Cruces City Council
Becky Corran - Las Cruces City Council
Yvonne Flores- Las Cruces City Council
Christopher Shaljo-Hernandez - Doña Ana County Commission
Gloria Gameros - Doña Ana County Commission
Shannon Reynolds - Doña Ana County Commission
Manuel Sanchez - Doña Ana County Commission
Russel Hernandez - Town of Mesilla Mayor
Biviana Cadena - Mesilla Board of Trustees
Diana Murillo - Mayor of Anthony
Angelica Rubio - New Mexico State Representative
Nathan Small - New Mexico State Representative
Joanne Ferrary - New Mexico State Representative
Sara Silva - New Mexico State Representative
Jeff Steinborn - New Mexico State Senator
William Soules - New Mexico State Senator
Carrie Hamblen - New Mexico State Senator
Gill Sorg - Dona Ana Soil and Water Conservation District
Nancy Stevens - Grant County Commission
Guadalupe Cano - Silver City Town Council
Nick Prince - Silver City Town Council
Stan Snider - Silver City Town Council
Francesca Gonzales - Bayard City Council
Gilbert Ortiz - Bayard City Council
Pamela Cort - Las Cruces School Board
Patrick Nolan - Las Cruces School Board
Ed Frank - Las Cruces School Board
Teresa Tenorio - Las Cruces School Board

Oppose the Nomination of Steve Pearce to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management

February 24, 2026

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

Since 1919, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) has been the leading voice of the American people in protecting and enhancing our National Park System, which includes their surrounding landscapes, historical resources, watersheds and more. On behalf of our nearly 1.6 million members and supporters nationwide, I urge you to oppose the nomination of former U.S. Representative Steve Pearce to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

National parks do not exist in isolation. They are part of their surrounding ecosystems, sharing water, air and wildlife which are unaware of human-drawn boundaries. Eighty national park units are directly adjacent to BLM-managed lands, and more are nearby. Activities on BLM lands have a direct impact on national parks, making BLM lands management critical to park protection.

The core responsibility of the BLM Director is to advance the Federal Land Policy and Management Act's (FLPMA) multiple use mandate as explained in the law:

> "a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output."

This mandate demands a leader that will balance the many uses of these public lands. A BLM Director must understand and demonstrate that conservation, wildlife and watershed protection, and historic preservation are not lesser uses to minerals management but co-equal under the law. This is especially true because the agency manages national monuments, national conservation areas, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, national wild and scenic rivers, and national scenic and historic trails—places where conservation, scenic, scientific and historic resources and values are the paramount use.

New Mexico is a state that is rich in history and natural beauty with many lands protected and stories told by the land management agencies. Rep. Pearce consistently supported extractive uses over recreation, preservation and conservation—not demonstrating that important balance. As BLM Director he would be tasked with the care of 245 million acres of public land, including 31 national monuments. Yet he has championed legislation to shrink national monuments – including asking the president to do so unilaterally

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

777 6th Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001 | 800.628.7275 | npca.org

in New Mexico. He also has been an opponent of the Antiquities Act—authored by Republican President Teddy Roosevelt, supporting legislation that would limit it and even going so far as to introduce legislation to curtail the abilities of a president to designate national monuments. He has also pushed for the federal government to sell public land to pay off the federal deficit. His antipathy towards the conservation and protection of public lands brings into question how he would properly execute his duties.

In addition to the public land managed by the BLM, the agency also overseas roughly 700 million acres of subsurface mineral rights. Rep. Pearce has long been a champion of the oil and gas industry, including his ownership and investment in companies involved in oil and gas development. He used his time in Congress to block commonsense reforms to the federal oil and gas program – such as raising the royalty rates, regulating methane release, adequate bonding minimums, and minimum standards for the security of oil and gas facilities. By blocking these reforms, he helped ensure that the American people would not get fair payment for the use of federal resources while leaving them on the hook for cleaning up after industry is done extracting their resources.

Rep. Pearce is not the right choice to lead the BLM. The management of BLM lands has direct impacts on national parks, and the leadership of the Bureau must recognize that responsibility. His statements, voting record, sponsorship and co-sponsorship of legislation, and actions are overwhelmingly at odds with the stated mission of the BLM. If his nomination is approved, his statements and actions indicate that he will eschew the multiple-use mandate in favor of unfettered drilling and mining on public lands without considering how those actions will affect national parks, tribes and communities. I urge you to oppose the nomination of Steve Pearce for Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

Sincerely,

Theresa Pierno
President and CEO
National Parks Conservation Association

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

777 6th Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20001 | 800.628.7275 | npca.org

January 20, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Oppose the Nomination of Stevan Pearce for Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich,

On behalf of our 154 organizations and our millions of members and supporters, we write to strongly urge you to oppose the nomination of Stevan Pearce to be the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Mr. Pearce's record in Congress, including his public support for selling off America's public lands, his conflicts of interest with the oil and gas industry, and his efforts to undermine national monuments and the Antiquities Act, demonstrates that he is the wrong candidate to lead this complex multiple-use agency.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages vast public resources—245 million acres of land and 700 million acres of mineral estate—under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act's (FLPMA) mandate of "multiple-use and sustained yield". This mandate requires the Director to balance competing demands, from fossil fuel production to conservation and recreation. An effective Director must be a neutral arbiter of these diverse public interests.

As the recent budget reconciliation debate proved, there is clear bipartisan support in Congress, and throughout America[1], for keeping public lands in public hands and for preventing the sale of these lands. Mr. Pearce stands contrary to these shared values. Since as early as 2012 when he said he wanted to "reverse this trend of public ownership of [public] lands[2]," he has been a vocal supporter of selling off public lands. The Senate cannot entrust the stewardship of our public lands to someone who has clearly, publicly, demonstrated his desire to sell them off. Doing so would be a direct violation of the public trust, and in direct conflict with commitments made by several members of this Committee to keep public lands in public hands.

Additionally, Mr. Pearce, previously the owner of an oilfield services company[3], demonstrated throughout his career in Congress that he is anything but a neutral arbiter. Mr. Pearce has

[1] Vast Majority of Americans Oppose Selling or Closing Public Lands, New Poll and Report Reveal, Trust for Public Land, April 16, 2025
[2] GOP Rep Promises To 'Reverse This Trend of Public Ownership Of Lands," ThinkProgress, October 9, 2012
[3] "Pearce Made Millions on Sale," Roll Call, April 28, 2008

championed the oil and gas industry's unfettered drilling and fracking rights at the expense of Americans' access to public lands. A nominee with a conflict of interest stemming from his personal stake in the oil and gas industry cannot adequately represent the broader mission of the BLM, risks prioritizing a single use over the sustained health and productivity of the land for future generations, and will undermine public access for outdoor recreation.

Finally, Mr. Pearce spent much of his tenure in Congress undermining the protection of public lands managed by the BLM, including those within New Mexico, and the bedrock environmental laws that enable their protection. In 2017, Mr. Pearce asked then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to recommend that Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in New Mexico be reduced by 88 percent[4], despite the overwhelming public support in New Mexico for preserving national monuments[5] and the fact that the monument has been a significant economic driver in the congressional district he used to represent[6]. He also was an original cosponsor of legislation that sought to undermine the Antiquities Act[7], a critical conservation tool used by presidents of both parties for over a century to protect landscapes worthy of conservation for their historic, scientific, cultural, and natural values.

The nomination of Stevan Pearce to head the BLM is an unambiguous statement from the Trump administration: the agency will prioritize the fossil fuel industry over local communities. Under his leadership, the concept of "multiple-use" will be narrowed to extractive purposes only, eliminating room for recreation and conservation. His priorities will center on selling off public lands instead of preserving them for future generations. We urge you to reject this nomination unequivocally.

Sincerely,

350PDX

Accountable.US/Accountable.NOW

Alaska Wilderness League

Aldos Silver City Chapter of Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance

Amargosa Conservancy

Archaeology Southwest

AZ(LAND) Fund

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[4] Organ Mountains National Monument Protects Prime Acreage for Future Generations, Sen. Martin Heinrich, July 9, 2017
[5] 2025 Conservation in the West Poll, Colorado College, February 19, 2025
[6] 2023 OMDP Business Report, Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce, September 13, 2023
[7] *National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act*, H.R. 2284, 115th Congress

Bark for Mt Hood
Birds of Prey NCA Partnership
BLU Educational Foundation
Bozeman Birders
CactusToCloud Institute
California Environmental Voters
Californians for Western Wilderness
CalWild
Carrizo Plain Conservancy
Center for Biological Diversity
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Citizens Caring for the Future
Climate Hawks Vote
Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
Coalition to Protect America's National Parks
Colorado Native Plant Society
Colorado Wild Public Lands
Colorado Wildlands Project
Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas (COFEM)
Conservation Colorado
Conservation Lands Foundation
Conservation Voters New Mexico
DamDol Ent.
Dolores River Boating Advocates
Earth Ethics, Inc.
Earthjustice Action
EDF Action
Endangered Habitats League
Environmental Protection Information Center
Friends of Agua Fria National Monument

Friends of Avi Kwa Ame National Monument
Friends of Basin & Range National Monument
Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve
Friends of Black Rock-High Rock
Friends of Browns Canyon
Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument
Friends of Deschutes and Crooked Rivers
Friends of Gold Butte
Friends of Headwaters Forest Reserve
Friends of Ironwood Forest
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Friends of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks
Friends of Point Arena Stornetta Lands
Friends of Red Rock Canyon
Friends of Rio Grande del Norte
Friends of the Amargosa Basin
Friends of the Dunes
Friends of the Earth US
Friends of the Inyo
Friends of the Lost Coast
Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks
Friends of the Owyhee
Friends of the Sonoran Desert
Gallatin Wildlife Association
Gila Native Plant Society
Gila Resources Information Project
Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Great Lakes Wildlife Alliance
Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Greater Yellowstone Coalition

GreenLatinos

Heart of the Gila

Heart of the Wild Equine Rescue

Idaho Conservation League

In Defense of Animals

Inland Ocean Coalition

Islanders for the San Juan Islands National Monument

Kettle Range Conservation Group

Kids for Saving Earth

King Range Alliance

Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center

Latino Outdoors

League of Conservation Voters

Living Desert Alliance

Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Los Padres ForestWatch

Mason County Climate Justice

Mattole Restoration Council

Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League of America

Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund

Montana Wildlife Federation

Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center

Mountain Mamas

Mtn Bio

Native American Land Conservancy

Native Plant Society of New Mexico

Native Voters Alliance NV

Natural Resources Defense Council

Nature for All

Nevada Conservation League

New Mexico Wild

Northern California Council, Fly Fishers International

Nuestra Tierra

Ocean Conservation Research

Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Oregon Natural Desert Association

Oregon Wild

Outward Bound Adventures

People & Pollinators Action Network

Protect Our Winters

Public Citizen

Resource Renewal Institute

Return Strong!

Rio Grande Valley Broadband of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Rocky Mountain Wild

San Juan Citizens Alliance

San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council

San Pedro 100

Save Our Parks

Save Red Rock

Sheep Mountain Alliance

Sierra Club

Silvix Resources

Siskiyou Crest Coalition

Soda Mountain Wilderness Council

South San Juan Chapter-Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

Southwest Colorado Canyons Alliance

Spokane Audubon Society

Standing Trees
Sweet Grass Advocacy for North American Equines
The Ocean Project
The Wilderness Society
Trail Access Project
Trinidad Coastal Land Trust
Tuleyome
Umpqua Watersheds
UnchainedTV
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance
Vet Voice Foundation
Washington Wild
Western Colorado Alliance
Western Slope Conservation Center
Western Watersheds Project
Wild Arizona
Wild Connections
Wild Hope
Wild Montana
WildEarth Guardians
Wilderness Workshop
Winter Wildlands Alliance
Wyoming Interfaith Network
Wyoming Outdoor Council
Wyoming Wilderness Association
Wyoming Wildlife Advocates

GREATERYELLOWSTONE.ORG
LOCATIONS IN MONTANA, IDAHO & WYOMING

HEADQUARTERS
215 South Wallace Avenue
Bozeman, Montana 59715
406.586.1593

February 27, 2026

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Oppose the Nomination of Steve Pearce to Lead the Bureau of Land Management

Dear Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

We write to respectfully urge you to oppose the nomination of Steve Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC) is a regional conservation organization based in Bozeman, Montana. Its five field offices, strategically placed in Idaho, Wyoming, and on the Wind River Indian Reservation, create opportunities to work with all people to protect the lands, waters, and wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem now, and for future generations. For more than 40 years, GYC and our 100,000 supporters from across the country have advocated for a science-driven, collaboration-focused, and forward-thinking approach to keeping lands wild, rivers free-flowing, and iconic wildlife moving throughout a connected and vibrant landscape.

The BLM is entrusted with stewarding more than 245 million acres of public lands on behalf of all Americans. These lands provide clean drinking water to millions, support local economies across the West, sustain livestock grazing operations, and offer world-class opportunities for hunting, fishing, recreation, and family traditions rooted in access to wide-open spaces. The next director must be an unequivocal champion of keeping public lands public.

When asked during his Senate hearing whether he had changed his long-documented support for selling off public lands, Mr. Pearce responded, “I’m not so sure I’ve changed.” That answer alone raises serious concerns about his fitness to lead the agency responsible for managing America’s public lands.

As a former Member of Congress, Mr. Pearce supported multiple efforts to sell or transfer federal public lands. He also opposed widely supported conservation programs, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has benefited communities across the West through

investments in parks, access, and habitat conservation like the South Fork of the Snake River. Public lands are not surplus assets to be liquidated; once sold, they are almost always lost to public access permanently.

Mr. Pearce also maintains documented ties to the oil and gas industry, including financial interests that raise concerns about conflicts of interest. Supporters of the Greater Yellowstone region underscore these concerns. From our advocacy alone, more than 5,000 letters have been sent to decision makers opposed to Pearce's nomination, including:

- 716 from Montanans
- 336 from Idahoans
- 206 from Wyomingites

This data reflects what we consistently hear from sportsmen and women, ranchers, business owners, and community leaders: public lands are foundational to Western identity, local economies, and quality of life.

The BLM Director must be someone who recognizes that public lands are a long-term public trust — not a short-term budget solution. Given Mr. Pearce's record and recent testimony, there is insufficient evidence that he would uphold that responsibility.

We respectfully urge you to **vote no** on the nomination of Steve Pearce to lead the Bureau of Land Management.

Thank you for your service and your careful consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely,

C. Wolf Drimal

Charles Drimal, Director of Conservation

Kathryn M. Rinaldi

Kathy Rinaldi, Director of Conservation