



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.

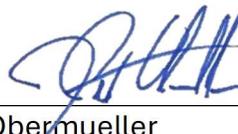
We believe Congressman Pearce's experience in both the private sector and Congress equips him to lead the BLM in a manner consistent with its statutory multiple-use mandate. His understanding of the economic importance of federal lands, particularly in energy-producing states, will be invaluable in ensuring 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



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Alaska Oil and Gas Association