

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 21, 2020

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joe Manchin, Ranking Member
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Manchin:

We are writing to respectfully ask that you expedite a hearing and subsequent business meeting on the nomination of William Pendley to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management. After nearly a year as Acting Director, Mr. Pendley's formal nomination is long overdue, and the public deserves the opportunity to hold him accountable for his record of undermining our public lands, clean water, and jobs that rely on both. We respectfully ask that you work with Mr. Pendley to hold a hearing as soon as you receive his paperwork so his record can be vetted before the American public.

As U.S. Senators representing the West, we understand that the management of our public lands is inextricably tied to our proud outdoor heritage and economy. The Bureau of Land Management plays an integral role in all of our communities and we do not believe Mr. Pendley is fit to oversee the agency. His advocacy for selling off our public lands flies in the face of the agency's role in managing more than 245 million acres of public lands for the American public's benefit. He spent much of his career working against the interests of local communities who fought to protect public lands from development. The American public deserves the opportunity to review how Mr. Pendley's history conflicts with the important role of overseeing the Bureau of Land Management.

Public land management is built on collaboration and community input. Mr. Pendley has supported extremists, defended leases issued on sacred tribal land without tribal consultation, and worked to undermine wildlife habitat protections based on years of careful negotiations. He has proven unwilling to work with local communities on collaborative solutions and is not a credible honest broker on land management or tribal sovereignty issues that come before the agency.

Mr. Pendley has run the Bureau of Land Management for nearly a year, without Senate confirmation or even a nomination. Now that President Trump has submitted his nomination, it is critical for Mr. Pendley to finally step into the sunlight and give the U.S. Senate and the public an opportunity to explain his record. We appreciate your leadership and respectfully ask that you ensure the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources processes this nomination expeditiously.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

/s/ Martin Heinrich

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

/s/ Dianne Feinstein

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

/s/ Kamala D. Harris

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator