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January 14, 2026

The Honorable Alex Padilla
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Padilla and Schiff:

As individuals, community leaders, small-business owners, veterans, hunters and anglers, and organizations from across California, we write to express our strong opposition to the nomination of Stevan (“Steve”) Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management—putting him in charge of more than 250 million acres of America’s public lands including 15 million acres in California alone.

The Bureau of Land Management stewards some of the most iconic landscapes in California -- from the wilds of the King Range National Conservation Area on the north coast to the Mojave Trails National Monument in the Mojave Desert. California’s public lands are beloved across the state and by stakeholders from all walks of life. In addition, they drive our \$81.5 billion-dollar outdoor recreation economy.

Our concerns are direct and fact-based: when **Mr. Pearce was a U.S. Representative, he repeatedly supported and advanced legislation to sell-off America's public lands.** His own statements and legislative actions show he does not support the foundational principle that public lands should remain in public hands.

Key examples include:

- In 2016, Pearce co-sponsored a sweeping land-disposal bill that would have authorized the *sale and exchange of hundreds of thousands of acres* of public lands across the country.
- In 2012, as part of a deficit-reduction proposal, Pearce argued for liquidating federal public lands, *stating much of the public lands in the West are “lands we do not even need.”*

- In a 2012 speech, Pearce stated openly that federal public-land ownership should be rolled back and *pledged to work with a future administration to “reverse this trend of public ownership.”* His nomination suggests that very moment has arrived, and the survival of our public lands could be in the hands of a director opposed to their very existence.

These examples reflect only a portion of Steve Pearce’s long record of advocating for the sell-off of our national public lands.

Public lands are not a partisan issue; they belong to all Americans and support our economies, our access to the outdoors, and our way of life. Earlier this year, Congress heard from people across the country who overwhelmingly rejected proposals to authorize federal land sales. Despite that clear public opposition, the administration is now proposing to put a public-land sell-off advocate in charge of America’s public lands. Approving this nominee puts the future of America’s public lands at risk.

We thank you for your work earlier this year to keep public lands in public hands when Senator Mike Lee attempted to put millions of acres of Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service lands up for sale as part of a budget deal, and we ask you to do so again. **We urge you to publicly oppose Steve Pearce’s nomination to lead the Bureau of Land Management due to his long history of extreme hostility to our cherished public lands.**

Respectfully,

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