

# OUTDOOR ALLIANCE

August 7, 2020

Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Joe Manchin  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
306 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

## **Re: Outdoor recreation community opposition to the confirmation of William Pendley to Director of the Bureau of Land Management**

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Manchin:

On behalf of the outdoor recreation community, we write to oppose the confirmation of William Pendley as Director of the Bureau of Land Management. Mr. Pendley's longstanding advocacy for the sell-off of public lands; his history of disparaging comments directed against BIPOC, immigrant, and LGBTQ communities; his denial of the urgent threat of climate change; and his long history of advocacy against environmental protection and core conservation laws collectively make him manifestly unsuited to stewarding our country's public lands.

Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of ten member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Mountaineers, the American Alpine Club, the Mazamas, Colorado Mountain Club, and Surfrider Foundation and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, backcountry ski and snowshoe, and enjoy coastal recreation on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes. Our members enjoy a diversity of recreational pursuits on lands managed by BLM and are keenly interested in their responsible stewardship.

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for the stewardship and management of more than 247 million acres of our country's landscape, including some of the most valued landscapes and rivers for outdoor recreation in the world and places with incalculable conservation value. In addition to the value of these places for protecting clean air and clean water, providing wildlife habitat, and helping to mitigate the effects of climate



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change, these varied landscapes support the outdoor recreation economy, which is responsible for 2.2 percent of our country's GDP and employs nearly 5.2 million Americans. These lands are owned in common by all Americans and managed in trust by the federal government.

That an individual who has argued vehemently against the continued existence of this public good could be responsibly charged with these landscapes' stewardship defies credulity. Moreover, even with legislative and administrative constraints preventing Mr. Pendley from entirely putting his wishes into practice, his extreme positions are not compatible with his duty—and discretion—to manage for the diversity of benefits encompassed by the agency's multiple use mandate.

Further—perhaps more than ever—it is the responsibility of federal officials to manage public lands and waters in way that is welcoming and responsive to all Americans. Mr. Pendley's long record of public statements disparaging the Black Lives Matter movement, Indigenous communities, immigrants, and LGBTQ individuals are shameful. Our country is in the midst of an overdue reckoning with the ways in which our history and institutions continue to produce unjust and discriminatory outcomes for far too many Americans, and that history is deeply and particularly present with regard to public lands. The confirmation to head BLM of an individual with the espoused views of Mr. Pendley would signal to millions of Americans that their identities, histories, values, communities, and beliefs are not valued by this Congress and this country, and that is wrong and flatly unacceptable.

We appreciate the committee's consideration of our views, and we ask that you oppose the nomination of Mr. Pendley.

Best regards,



Adam Cramer  
Executive Director  
Outdoor Alliance

cc: Louis Geltman, Policy Director, Outdoor Alliance  
Chris Winter, Executive Director, Access Fund  
Beth Spilman, Interim Executive Director, American Canoe Association  
Mark Singleton, Executive Director, American Whitewater



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Kent McNeill, CEO, International Mountain Bicycling Association

Todd Walton, Executive Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance

Tom Vogl, Chief Executive Officer, The Mountaineers

Phil Powers, Chief Executive Officer, American Alpine Club

Mitsu Iwasaki, Executive Director, the Mazamas

Keegan Young, Executive Director, Colorado Mountain Club

Chad Nelson, Chief Executive Officer, Surfrider Foundation

