

November 17, 2025

Senator Luján
c/o Office of U.S. Senator Ben Ray Luján
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Senator Luján,

My name is Patrick M. Brenner, and I serve as President of the Southwest Public Policy Institute (SPPI), a nonpartisan, nonprofit research organization based in New Mexico. SPPI focuses on improving quality of life in the American Southwest by advancing sound, evidence-based public policy.

I am writing today in my capacity as President of SPPI to share an embargoed copy of an op-ed scheduled to run tomorrow in *The Washington Post*, titled “Trump’s Bureau of Land Mismanagement.” I am providing it to your office in confidence because it addresses an issue of immediate relevance to New Mexico: the nomination of former Congressman Steve Pearce to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

As detailed in the attached article, SPPI is deeply concerned about Mr. Pearce’s record of leadership in New Mexico and what it suggests about his suitability for such a critical federal role. The Bureau of Land Management oversees public lands and mineral resources that are central to our state’s economy, environment, and communities. Effective stewardship of these resources requires administrative competence, an ability to build consensus, and a demonstrated respect for the diverse stakeholders who depend on these lands.

Based on our analysis of Mr. Pearce’s tenure in public office and party leadership, SPPI believes that his record does not meet the standard of qualification that New Mexicans deserve from a BLM Director. His history of divisive leadership, organizational decline, and inability to maintain key stakeholder relationships raises serious questions about his ability to manage an agency of this scale and importance.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, SPPI cannot and does not engage in partisan political activity. However, nonprofits may, and often must, participate in nonpartisan lobbying on matters of

public policy and governance. In that capacity, I respectfully urge you to oppose Mr. Pearce's confirmation and to support the selection of a BLM Director who demonstrates the competence, balance, and credibility required to protect and steward our public lands.

I would welcome the opportunity to provide further analysis, background, or technical information to your staff. SPPI stands ready to assist your office in any way that helps advance responsible management of New Mexico's public resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick M. Brenner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patrick M. Brenner