



February 24, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich:

On behalf of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) and the Off-Road Business Association (ORBA), I write in strong support of Steve Pearce's nomination to serve as the Director of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) is a non-profit trade association that represents over 7,000 mostly small businesses around the country that drive innovation in the specialty automotive aftermarket industry. SEMA is proud to represent manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and installers of the parts and accessories that are used to customize and modify motor vehicles, including those used off-road. The specialty automotive aftermarket that SEMA represents has a \$337 billion annual economic impact and employs over 1.3 million Americans.

The Off-Road Business Association (ORBA), a non-profit business association powered by SEMA, represents companies that manufacture and maintain UTVs, ATVs, and motorcycles. ORBA is a national leader in land use policy and trail advocacy, working to protect motorized access and shape the future of off-highway recreation through education, legislation, and collaboration. ORBA unites manufacturers, retailers, clubs, e-commerce platforms, race organizers, and advocacy groups from across the country with the mission to preserve the rights of off-road users, while promoting environmental conservation and responsible recreation.

SEMA & ORBA members manufacture products that modify and customize trucks, SUVs, and off-road vehicles to make it easier for Americans to enjoy the outdoors. These specialty products include bigger wheels and tires, suspension, lift kits, winches, and lighting products, enhancing

capability, performance, style, and safety; all in the pursuit of helping millions of Americans enjoy the great outdoors.

The BLM oversees approximately 245 million acres of public lands—lands that are central to recreation, multiple-use management, energy development, conservation, and economic vitality. Our members need predictable, balanced, and transparent public land policies to sustain jobs, investment, and access for the millions of Americans who recreate responsibly on BLM lands each year.

Recreation on BLM lands supports small businesses in rural communities across the West, from parts manufacturers and aftermarket innovators to outfitters, event organizers, and businesses that rely on motorized recreational tourism. Sound land management policies that provide certainty and maintain reasonable access are critical to these businesses and the communities they support.

Former U.S. Representative Steve Pearce brings extensive experience in public policy, land management issues, and western economic development. During his tenure in Congress representing New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, Mr. Pearce was an advocate for multiple use, including all types of recreation on public lands, and balancing the competing interests that define BLM-managed lands.

Mr. Pearce understands that conservation and recreation are not mutually exclusive. Through collaborative land-use planning, meaningful stakeholder input, and science-based decision-making, BLM can protect sensitive resources while preserving appropriate access for responsible motorized recreation and other multiple uses consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Mr. Pearce's extensive experience in public land policy and record of advocating for rural America make him the perfect candidate to lead the BLM. SEMA and ORBA respectfully urge the Committee to advance Mr. Pearce's nomination favorably and the Senate to confirm him promptly.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at karenbc@sema.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KBC' with a stylized flourish.

Karen Bailey-Chapman

Senior Vice President - Public and Government Affairs

Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) & Off-Road Business Association (ORBA)