

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 20, 2020

Honorable David L. Bernhardt
Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Bernhardt:

We are pleased to hear that the President has decided to withdraw Mr. William Perry Pendley's nomination to be director of the Bureau of Land Management. We have grave concerns, however, with reports that Mr. Pendley will continue to lead the bureau through his current position as deputy director, exercising the authority of the director. For the same reasons that Mr. Pendley is unfit to be confirmed as director, he is unfit to exercise the authority of the director without being confirmed, and we ask that you remove Mr. Pendley from this position. We also call on the President to nominate a qualified director for consideration through the regular confirmation process.

Mr. Pendley's long public record of advocacy for selling off public lands and reducing access to them, attempts to undermine tribes and tribal sovereignty, and denial of climate change make his beliefs and actions antithetical to either role. His role in the mismanagement of public assets during his first tenure at the Department of the Interior raises serious questions about his fitness for any federal position. The Bureau of Land Management requires a qualified leader who supports public lands and the bureau's critical role in administering them for the American people.

We urge you to remove Mr. Pendley from his position leading the Bureau of Land Management.

Sincerely,



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator




Joe Manchin
United States Senator




Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

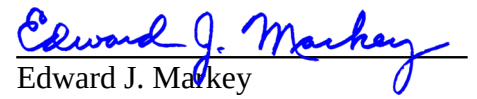


Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

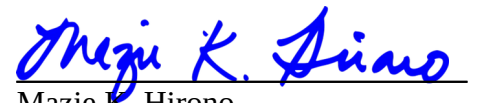

Chris Murphy
United States Senator


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

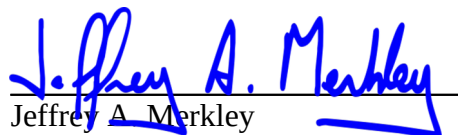

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

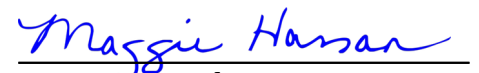

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

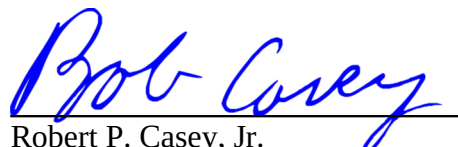

Debbie A. Stabenow
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator


Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator


Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator


Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



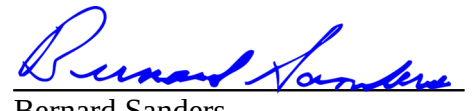
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



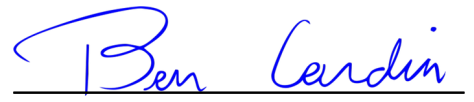
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator




Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator




Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator




Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



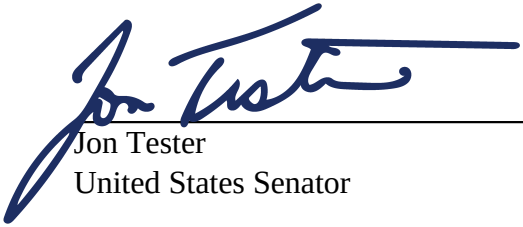
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



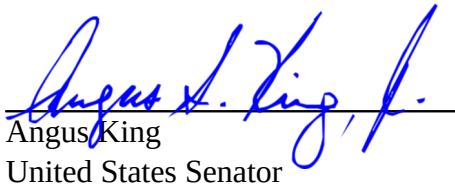
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



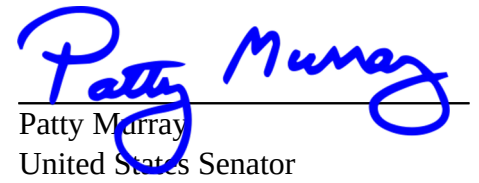
Jon Tester
United States Senator



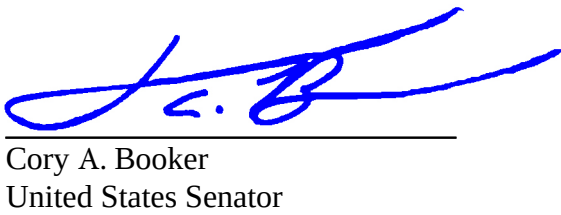
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



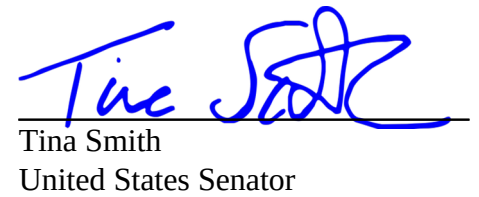
Angus King
United States Senator



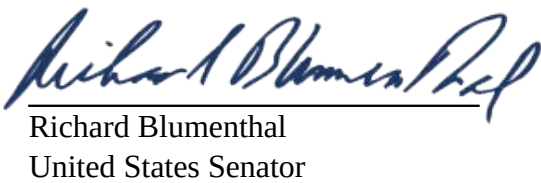
Patty Murray
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



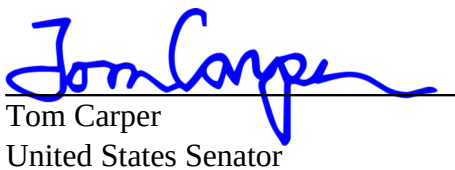
Tina Smith
United States Senator



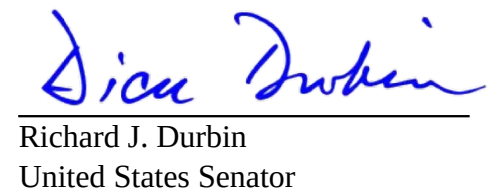
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



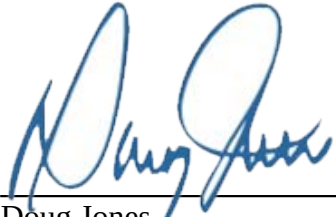
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



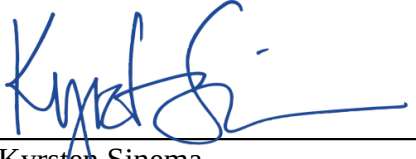
Tom Carper
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Doug Jones
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator