



ROGER S. PENSKE
Chairman

September 19, 2018

Mr. Brian Steed
Acting Director
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street, NW, Room 5655
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Brian:

I am writing to ask your support for restoring the Bonneville Salt Flats. Bonneville is a national treasure and unique resource of international significance to the history of motorsports.

Having been intensely engaged in auto racing for decades both as an owner and driver, I am keenly aware of the importance of Bonneville. Dating back to the 1940s, it has been the test track for developing speed equipment to be installed on vehicles driven in IndyCar, NASCAR and SCCA events, and eventually adapted for commercial use in motor vehicles around the world. It has also been a source of American pride as the location where world land speed records were set.

One cannot overstate Bonneville's importance. In fact, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been designated an "area of critical environmental concern." Nevertheless, the racing venue has decreased in size from over 13 miles to less than 8 miles.

In the 1960s, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued leases allowing salt brine to be legally transferred from Bonneville for potash extraction without returning the processed salt. A 1997-2002 pilot program demonstrated that a return of 1.5 million tons/year or more will help restore Bonneville. The pumping levels have been far less since then.

The mine owner, racing community and BLM have developed a program to return the pumping levels to 1.5 million tons/year or more for at least

10 years. I respectfully request the BLM and U.S. Congress help fund the infrastructure needed to implement the program.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your support for restoring this symbol of American uniqueness.

Sincerely,


RSP/cdg