



IPAMS
Independent
Petroleum
Association
of
Mountain
States

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January 14, 2010

The Honorable Dan Boren
United States House of Representatives
216 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Boren:

On behalf of the 260,000 natural gas and oil professionals in the Intermountain West, thank you very much for your letter to Secretary Salazar regarding the Department of the Interior's proposed changes to the federal onshore natural gas and oil program, and the tone in which those changes were announced. We too are very concerned about the effect these proposed changes will have on jobs, economic development, government revenue, and the supply of American energy.

I very much appreciate your strong stand in support of the independent producers who supply the majority of America's natural gas and oil. Your letter caught the attention of our members, who are very grateful to your strong support. We have been much maligned in recent years, which has created great consternation for the men and women of our industry who are working hard to provide for their families while creating such tremendous wealth for America and powering all other sectors of society.

The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) represents over 400 companies engaged in environmentally-responsible exploration and production in the Intermountain West. Public lands in the West, where over 50% of production is on federal lands, are crucial to America's supply of natural gas. Western producers work very hard to ensure public lands are protected, and **provide 27% of America's natural gas while occupying only 0.07% of public lands.** We are very heartened that you understand the balance we have achieved.

IPAMS is concerned that the proposed changes will create additional layers of red tape and slow the development of American energy and creation of jobs. The changes proposed by Salazar are redundant with existing analysis that already takes over five years to complete. The changes require site-specific analysis at the leasing stage before completion of any exploratory work to determine if there are economic quantities of natural gas or oil available. These changes also fail to take into account whether market, infrastructure, technical and other factors are aligned to make development worthwhile.

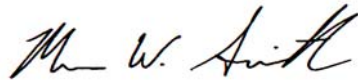
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My staff has sent an invitation to you to address IPAMS members during our annual Washington DC Call-Up on March 1, 2010 between 4:00 and 6:00 pm. Our members would very much like to hear from you as Chairman of the Natural Gas Caucus, and thank you personally for your support. We will be in contact with your office soon to follow up.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your excellent staff on meaningful clean energy solutions, job growth, and economic development this year. Please do not hesitate to use IPAMS as an information resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc W. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Marc W. Smith
IPAMS Executive Director