

News Release



IPAMS

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IPAMS Lauds Energy Policy Act of 2005 to U.S. Senate *Act has increased supply, helped consumers*

(DENVER) – An Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States’ (IPAMS) Executive Board member today testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources regarding the progress being made in the implementation of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, saying that the Act “is providing, and will continue to provide relief to the 62 million households that consume natural gas.”

Speaking on behalf of approximately 400 IPAMS member-companies, the IPAMS representative praised the Energy Policy Act’s provisions to streamline the leasing, planning and permitting process for drilling on public land that will help increase domestic natural gas supplies, decrease consumer prices, and make the U.S. less dependent on foreign energy sources, telling Senators that their “Committee’s hard work from last summer is helping to increase supplies of natural gas headed to consumers.”

Since public lands contain the largest onshore reserves of natural gas in the nation and currently supply eleven percent of the nation’s natural gas, having a leasing, permitting, and planning process that is fair and efficient is essential to securing reliable energy sources for the future.

“Federal lands contain nearly 200 trillion cubic feet of technically recoverable natural gas—this is energy that we as a country need. That’s why we’re pleased that the Energy Policy Act is providing the basis for the elimination of many of the delays associated with nominating and issuing leases for public land energy development,” IPAMS testified.

Also emphasized was the important role that the Intermountain West will play in ensuring that America’s energy needs are met in the years to come. “As the nation’s appetite for energy continues to grow, public lands in the Intermountain West must play a significant role in the nation’s energy security.”

According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), by 2030 U.S. consumption of natural gas will be 27 trillion cubic feet (tcf), up from 21.9 tcf today. The EIA estimates that the Intermountain West natural gas production will double over the next two decades, surpassing production in the Gulf of Mexico.

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The testimony concluded with IPAMS assuring Senators of the petroleum industry's eagerness to work closely with government agencies to ensure that the progress made by implementation of the Energy Policy Act continues.

"While paradigm changes are necessary to avoid increasing dependency on foreign natural gas, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 is helping to address some of the immediate barriers to meeting natural gas demand. IPAMS hopes that federal agencies at all levels will continue to work with industry to ensure that the opportunities created by the Energy Policy Act continue to improve the public land development process."

The testimony was delivered on behalf of IPAMS' members by IPAMS Vice President Duane Zavadil, who also serves as the Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs for the Bill Barrett Corporation in Denver.

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IPAMS, founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 independent oil and gas producers, service and supply companies, banking and financial institutions and industry consultants in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at www.ipams.org.