

Salazar and Udall Undermine Public Process

Congressmen refuse to open closed-door meeting to Colorado's working families

(DENVER) – Reps. John Salazar (D-Manassa) and Mark Udall (D-Eldorado Springs) remain steadfast in their refusal to listen to Colorado's working families who are concerned about the future of energy development in Western Colorado. The Congressmen plan to hold a meeting in Glenwood Springs tomorrow that will largely feature special interest groups opposed to oil and gas development in Western Colorado.

Yesterday, the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) made a formal appeal to broaden participation in the meeting, but the request has been ignored and calls to the Congressmen's office have not been returned.

"We are extremely disappointed that Congressman Salazar's office has not responded to our petition for a seat at the table for discussions on the future of the energy industry in Western Colorado," said IPAMS Executive Director Marc Smith. "It's also unfortunate that these two Congressmen have waited until the end of a five year public process that has been—until now—open, balanced, and transparent."

"Just a little over a year ago Congressman Salazar said that Congress's job 'is to protect the public interest and work together to find common sense solutions to problems, not hide information or sneak in special interest provisions.'

"The tens of thousands of Colorado families who depend on the oil and gas industry for their livelihoods certainly hope that the Congressman still believes what he said then," Smith said.

"The people of Colorado deserve to know why these Congressmen would consider undermining a public process to which so many Coloradans have devoted hundreds of hours to ensure that all stakeholders—not just the special interests—are represented," Smith concluded.

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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.