

News Release



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Independent Natural Gas Producers Stress Importance of Intermountain West in Renewable Energy Future, Carbon-constrained World

IPAMS to travel to Washington to urge Congress to avoid energy crisis

(DENVER)- The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) announced today that its members will travel to Washington, D.C. this week to meet with policy makers and stress the essential role of natural gas in a future with cleaner and less carbon-intensive fuels. IPAMS members will discuss the vast energy reserves found in the Intermountain West and the region's importance in meeting our nation's near and long-term energy needs.

"Our representatives in Congress must understand that in order to avoid an energy crisis in the near future, they must reject polices that call for increased supplies of natural gas while at the same time making the exploration for and production of natural gas more difficult and more expensive through redundant regulation and over-taxation," said Marc Smith, IPAMS Executive Director.

"We hope to remind Congress that America needs more of all types of clean energy, including solar, wind, and natural gas," said Smith. According to the Department of Energy, by 2030, 25% of our energy will come from natural gas, and about 8% will come from renewable energy sources.

As Congress looks to increase our use of renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, IPAMS will remind policymakers that even the most optimistic forecasts for the development of renewable energy sources call increased natural gas supplies. "As the U.S. increases its reliance on solar and wind energy, more clean-burning natural gas will be needed to fill the gaps when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining. Solar and wind facilities simply cannot exist without increased supplies of natural gas," said Smith. "Additionally, as Congress pushes polices that encourage the use of biofuels, it must remember that we'll need even more natural gas to produce fertilizer and convert plant material into useful energy."

Since clean-burning natural gas emits half the CO₂ of coal, it is an essential part of any plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Recent studies predict that increased supplies of natural gas will be needed in order to implement any of the climate change polices under consideration today.

IPAMS members will urge policymakers to encourage the development of technologies that will improve efficiency and make futuristic supplies of energy possible, but not neglect the imminent challenges that remain in meeting our nation's near-term energy demands. "By increasing costs for domestic energy producers and making even more of our federal lands off-limits for energy development, Congress will artificially restrict natural gas supplies and further delay our transition to a renewable energy future," concluded Smith.

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The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS), founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 independent oil and natural gas producers, service and supply companies, banking and financial institutions and industry consultants committed to environmentally responsible oil and natural gas development in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at www.ipams.org.