

# News Release



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## IPAMS Calls on Congressional Leaders to End Dishonest Claims *Calls assertions that companies are not developing leases 'absurd'*

(DENVER)- The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) again called on congressional leaders to stop misleading the public on the issue of domestic energy development. Yesterday Democratic leaders, who are gathered here in Denver for the Democratic National Convention, once again repeated false claims that domestic energy producers are not developing on lands they currently have leased.

With 67% of the American public supporting increased domestic energy exploration, and the environmental lobby losing the battle over public opinion, the congressional leadership continues to repeat misleading claims that energy companies are "sitting on" 68 million acres of leased land.

"This claim is simply not true," said Marc Smith, IPAMS Executive Director. "And in spite of having the facts on this issue, politicians such as Rep. Diana DeGette and Speaker Pelosi continue to repeat this false assertion.

"Companies are doing all they can to develop federal energy resources, but a lease is not a green light to drill—it's the first step in a long, expensive process that is fraught with bureaucratic red tape and protests and lawsuits by environmental groups determined to stop domestic energy development," said Smith. "In fact, this year 100% of BLM lease sales in our region have been protested," continued Smith.

"An oil and natural gas lease is no more than a *definite maybe*-- *maybe* you'll get through all the environmental analyses and regulatory hurdles, *maybe* you'll get permission to drill, *maybe* your project won't be held up by legal challenges from obstructionist groups, *maybe* you'll find oil or natural gas.

"Industry is in a classic Catch-22 situation whereby the government has created a cumbersome process that takes years to complete, environmental groups exploit the process to throw up legal roadblocks at every stage, and then Congress and the environmental lobby turn around and blame the industry for not 'diligently drilling.'

"If Congress is really concerned about undeveloped leases, they should pass regulatory reforms that ensure government agencies issue permits and environmental analyses within reasonable timeframes and curb the abuses of frivolous lawsuits and protests designed to slow natural gas development," said Smith.

(more)

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“Exploring for oil and natural gas in new areas is a responsible step, but enabling companies to develop more energy from federal lands already leased would mean real progress as America tries to meet its near term energy needs. Now is not the time to consider making even more of our public lands off limits to development. The Intermountain West currently supplies our nation with 25% of its natural gas while occupying less than 1% of public lands. As inevitable climate change legislation and calls for more wind and solar energy increase demand for natural gas, we’ll need access to energy resources on federal lands if we are to continue meeting American’s demand for energy.

“If Speaker Pelosi is serious about solving our energy crisis, she needs to begin thinking beyond sound bites and enact policies to encourage development of our vast domestic energy resources, especially those found beneath the public lands of the Intermountain West.” concluded Smith.

Visit [www.ipams.org/dnc](http://www.ipams.org/dnc) for more information.

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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](http://www.ipams.org).*