

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

February 5, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240-10148

Dear Madam Secretary:

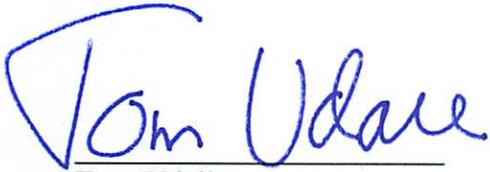
Thank you for the important work you are doing at the Department of the Interior. As part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Secretary of Interior established a Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project under a memorandum of understanding in conjunction with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Through this program, a series of pilot offices were established for a ten year period for BLM offices in Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah to improve federal permit coordination. Congress supported this program more recently on a bipartisan basis with enactment of Public Law 113-69 in December 2013.

At the time of implementation, these existing BLM offices processed nearly seventy percent of the applications for permits to drill (APD) that were received by the BLM. Through the pilot project, these participating offices were eligible to receive a portion of the rental fees—paid by producers to the BLM—from leases across the continental United States in order to reinvest the capital in additional staff or resources to increase the efficiency of the office. BLM offices were able to use the additional funding to process drilling permits and support other agency resources related to range, wildlife, and archeological conservation.

In the past ten years, the United States has seen a resurgence of production in the oil and natural gas industry. While this jumpstart has mostly happened on state and private lands, multiple-use public lands have a huge role to play with vast, untapped resources. In order to see this success replicated on public lands, programs that create a more efficient working environment for producers and permitting agencies are vital.

As you know, this pilot program is set to expire in 2015. Having been a successful program, we are requesting a reauthorization of this program. We would like to work with the Department to craft language that would be mutually beneficial. We welcome your legislative ideas for how to improve and continue the functionality and applicability of the program. Please send our office your ideas for continued success of this program by March 4, 2014. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Udall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Tom Udall
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Bishop". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress