

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 23, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

We are writing in regards to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposed rule for "Oil and Gas; Well Stimulation, Including Hydraulic Fracturing, on Federal and Indian Lands" and your "Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Request for Comment" which was published on your website on May 16, 2013. It is our belief that the revised proposal is still troublesome and certainly warrants additional time for analysis and comment. Following the rule's initial release on May 11, 2012, BLM provided an extended comment period, and it is unacceptable to only allow for 30 days of comment considering the substantial changes to the rule. For these reasons, we request that the comment period for the public, tribes, states, and affected stakeholders to analyze and make recommendations to the rule be extended from 30 to 120 days.

States have a long and successful track record in regulating oil and natural gas operations for over 60 years. Administration officials from both the Bureau of Land Management and the Environmental Protection Agency have testified under oath that not one case of groundwater contamination has been caused by hydraulic fracturing. BLM's one-size-fits-all approach to address fracturing operations fails to acknowledge geology, hydrology, and other conditions that vary from state to state. A federal rule that duplicates effective state-based regulations in use for decades is an unnecessary addition to a system that is not broken.

Recent statistics have illustrated that oil and gas activities have decreased significantly on federal lands compared to activity levels on state and private lands across the nation. A new layer of bureaucracy that could undermine applicable state regulations (already crafted to fit their unique circumstances) will only further the disadvantage of developing our energy resources on public and Indian lands, to the detriment of the taxpayer and tribal owners who would prefer to see the greatest return on their assets. In particular, the impact of lost or lessened economic activity harms communities in the west, whose potential tax bases are restricted by large federal land holdings, as well as tribal communities who are often the most underserved in the nation.

As Members of Congress, we must ensure for our constituents that regulatory proposals of this magnitude receive complete vetting and scrutiny of all the possible intended and unintended consequences on jobs, tax revenue, and energy production. Significant changes have been made to the proposed rule from an earlier draft on May 4, 2012 concerning "usable water", well integrity, and water management, raising questions of how they might conflict with existing state or federal regulations and overall effects on energy production. It's critical that these provisions are further scrutinized and their effects are fully understood. An arbitrary 30-day deadline is not sufficient for evaluation and we urge the Department to extend the comment period.

Sincerely,

Mike Flood

Bob Casey

Kevin McCurtin

Blue/Levy

Al Franken

James Blumenthal

Tommy Lohmeier

Stewart Parnell

Ben Sasse

Jeff Duncan

Mike Pompeo

Steve Daines

Paul A. Gosar

Randy Neugebauer



Mark Kutyne Mullin



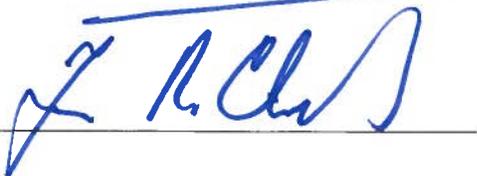
Tim Huelstump



Dan Brisk



Doug Sambern



J. R. Chis









Robert Pittenger

Steve King





Shelley Moore Capito

  
Don Young

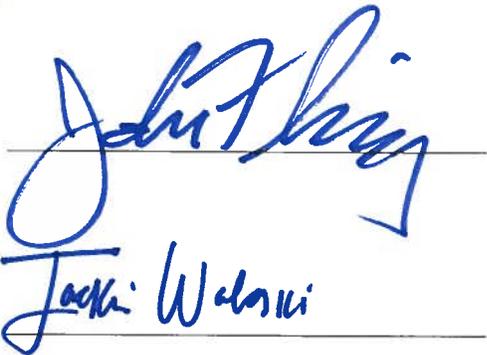
  
K. Michael Conway

  
Kent Hanks

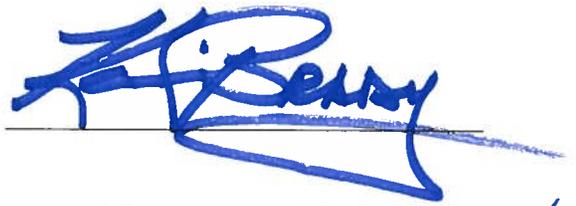
  
Paul Brown

  
Sam Cole

  
Dan P. Per

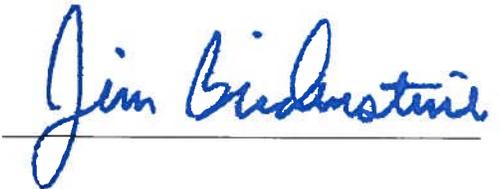
  
Jacki Walorski

  
Pett Olson

  
Tim Berry

  
Mark V. Anderson

  
Tom C. Tapscott

  
Jim Biedenstein

  
Glenn G. Thompson PA-5

  
Scott Perry

  
Blake Farnthold

  
Kevin Crowe

  
Jan Sch

Alan Murphy

Tim Murphy

Raúl R. Sabrales

Lynn Jenkins

Blair Duffy

Matt Salmon

Mike Cotman

JB

Bill Flores	Rob Bishop
Kevin McCarthy	Doc Hastings
Adam Kinzinger	Jason Chaffetz
Louie Gohmert	Stevan Pearce
Pete Sessions	Jeff Duncan
Mike Pompeo	Steve Daines
Paul Gosar	Randy Neugebauer
Steve Southerland	Bill Johnson
Markwayne Mullin	Cynthia Lummis
Tim Huelskamp	Cory Gardner
Chris Stewart	Doug LaMalfa
Dan Benishek	Robert Pittenger
Joe Barton	Steve King
Doug Lamborn	Ralph Hall
Mick Mulvaney	Steven Palazzo
Tom McClintock	Shelley Moore Capito
Don Young	Kevin Brady
K. Michael Conaway	Mark Amodei
Trent Franks	Scott Tipton
Paul Broun	Jim Bridenstine
Tom Cole	Glenn Thompson
David P. Roe	Scott Perry
John Fleming	Blake Farenthold
Jackie Walorski	Kevin Cramer
Pete Olson	James Lankford
Alan Nunnelee	Tim Murphy
Raul Labrador	Lynn Jenkins
Blane Luetkemeyer	Matt Salmon
Mike Coffman	
Jim Renacci	