

The Honorable David Vitter  
U.S. Senate  
516 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
U.S. House of Representatives  
123 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Vitter and Congressman Bishop:

On behalf of the Western Business Roundtable and its multi-sector membership, I am writing to thank you for your unflinching leadership in support of a strong domestic energy policy based on the wise use of the nation's full range of energy resources. The latest example of that leadership is your introduction of the Domestic Jobs, Domestic Energy, and Deficit Reduction Act of 2011 (the "3-D Act").

The Roundtable has long advocated for a strong domestic energy policy built on three major tenants: increased domestic energy production from virtually all energy resources and technologies; the incentivizing of the development/deployment of next generation energy technologies; and greater conservation and increased efficiency.

All three legs of the stool are necessary for a viable long-term energy policy. In turn, a stable and predictable domestic energy policy is a fundamental building block for any successful effort to jump-start our still anemic national economy.

Unfortunately, domestic energy production of all kinds is increasingly being stymied by expansive, heavy-handed federal regulatory policies.

The 3-D Act would take important steps to cut through this regulatory morass. Among other things, the bill streamlines permitting; stops federal agencies' obstructionism toward energy leasing on federal lands; addresses litigation abuse; and forces agencies to consider economic and employment impacts as part of their regulatory decision-making.

In addition, the bill would increase supplies of affordable energy from America's deepwater reserves, promote the safe and environmentally responsible development of American oil resources from the arctic coastal plain and jump-start development of the American West's vast oil shale resources.

We appreciate your attention to the growing problem of regulatory over-reach through unilateral climate regulations. The provisions included in the 3-D Act address several key areas of concern. Unfortunately, the problem is even more expansive: from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), to the Department of Interior (DOI)/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) / Bureau of Land Management (BLM) / U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)/ U.S. Forest Service Forest (USFS), etc., the Obama Administration is using climate change as the justification for a broad expansion of regulatory authority across the federal government. The result is a burgeoning set of regulatory hurdles energy and natural resource producers must navigate.

Failure to responsibly develop America's full energy potential will only increase our dependence on foreign energy sources. That, in turn, will drive up energy prices for consumers, destroy good-paying jobs and fundamentally weaken our ability to assure the nation's long-term energy and economic security.

Thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of policies that strengthen our nation's economic, energy and minerals' security.

Sincerely,



Holly Propst  
Executive Director/General Counsel  
Western Business Roundtable

*The Western Business Roundtable is a broad-based coalition of companies doing business in the Western United States. Our members are engaged in a wide array of enterprises, including: manufacturing; retail energy sales; mining; electric power generation and transmission; energy infrastructure development; oil and gas exploration development, transportation and distribution; and energy services. We work to defend the interests of the West and support policies that encourage economic growth and opportunity, freedom of enterprise and a common-sense, balanced approach to conservation and environmental stewardship.*