



March 31, 2011

The Honorable David Vitter  
United States Senate  
516 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
United State House of Representatives  
123 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Vitter and Congressman Bishop:

Thank you for introducing the Three-D, Domestic Jobs, Domestic Energy, and Deficit Reduction Act of 2011. The bill provides common-sense ways to increase American energy, which directly leads to more jobs, economic growth, and government revenue, and less imports of foreign energy. In fact, IHS Global Insight estimates that each additional million barrels of oil equivalent produced in the US annually results in 225,000 jobs, \$36.3 billion in GDP and \$3.9 billion in royalties and taxes from the upstream sector plus an additional 203,500 jobs and \$28.5 billion in U.S. GDP from the mid and downstream sectors.

Western Energy Alliance (formerly the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States) represents over 400 companies engaged in all aspects of environmentally responsible exploration and production of natural gas and oil in the West. Western companies provide 27% of American natural gas and 14% of American oil production while disturbing only 0.07% of public lands. Our members provide an excellent balance between producing domestic energy while protecting the environment.

However, despite that balance, the Obama Administration has made it more difficult for domestic oil and natural gas companies to produce American energy. From new Department of the Interior regulations that require even more layers of analysis and review before producing on federal lands, to the Environmental Protection Agency adding an unprecedented level of new regulations despite the negligible impact on the environment and the negative impacts on jobs, this Administration has tipped the balance too far. The Three-D bill sensibly rolls back some of this regulatory overreach.

Western Energy Alliance finds the following provisions specifically helpful for energy production in the West:

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- Sensible timelines for completing Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) enable energy development to go forward and jobs to be created within a reasonable time. Currently, EISs for large projects are taking over five years, and many EISs are past the seven year mark, with no plans in sight from the federal government on bringing them to completion.
- Limiting the Clean Air Act to pollutants specified by Congress and requiring economic analysis of new requirements are common sense elements of the bill that provide a means to rein in a federal bureaucracy without accountability otherwise to the public.
- Limiting analysis of greenhouse gases (GHG) in Endangered Species Act decisions is also a common-sense approach. Since scientific methods are not yet available to determine the direct impacts of GHG emissions on climate change, let alone on a specific species, it doesn't make sense for the government to spend limited time and resources pursuing an objective that scientists devoted to climate change research cannot do.
- Requiring the government to reinstate leases unlawfully withdrawn in Utah will send a strong signal to industry that the government is serious about production of energy from federal lands, and will enable oil and natural gas projects to move forward.

Thank you again for introducing the Three-D Act. Western Energy Alliance and its members stand ready to support you in advancing this legislation and encouraging domestic energy production.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Sgamma', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kathleen M. Sgamma  
Director of Government & Public Affairs