

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 20, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Mail Stop 2134 LM
1849 C St. NW.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

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" which was published in the Federal Register on May 11, 2012. We are concerned this proposal might have significant negative consequences on American energy security and job growth. Given what is at stake, we ask that the public comment period be extended to allow for additional consideration.

States have long and successful histories in regulating oil and natural gas operations, including hydraulic fracturing, well construction, and management of produced water. The federal government does not need to add additional regulations to a system that is working. Administration officials have testified before Congress saying that hydraulic fracturing has been used on over one million wells without a single report of groundwater contamination. Additionally, a nationwide rule fails to consider each state's unique geology, hydrology, and other varying conditions. Given the complicated and technical nature of this rule, and particularly how the rule might undermine existing state regulations, we believe additional time for review is warranted.

Furthermore, as you are aware, statistics have illustrated that oil and gas activities have already decreased significantly on federal lands compared to activity levels on state and private lands across the nation. We believe a major component of that trend has been the unnecessarily burdensome bureaucracy and related uncertainty that comes with operating under the federal regime. This operating environment creates a competitive disadvantage for resources on public and Indian lands, to the detriment of the taxpayer and to tribal owners who would prefer to see the greatest return on their assets. For western communities whose potential tax bases are restricted by large federal land holdings, and for tribal communities who are often the most underserved in the nation, the impact of lost or lessened economic activity is substantial. For the nation as a whole, struggling with crippling national debt, the undue reduction of potential federal revenues is absolutely irresponsible.

As Members of Congress focused on job creation, energy security, and sound regulatory policies, we take our responsibility of reviewing the proposed rule very seriously. We must assure our constituents that any proposals which exacerbate the issues discussed above receive complete and thorough vetting of all the possible intended and unintended consequences. It is for these reasons that we write to request the comment period for the public, tribes, states, and affected stakeholders be extended 90 days.

Sincerely,

Ben Ray Lujan

John H. Hickenlooper

Kevin McCurtin

Doug Lamborn

Cynthia Lummis

John L. Cooney

Tom Amodeo

Tim Boney

Paul Braun

J.M. Oberweiser

Blake Farenthold

Pete Scott

Sen Cole

Alan Duncan

Jefferson 4-03

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Saul A. Green

Max 7/12

Laura Smith

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Steve Chaffetz

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Cadel Roberts

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John Smith

Alyssa M. Chapman

Mike Coffey

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Dan Perkins

Glenn Go Thompson

Bill Johnson

John Flory

Steve Seaton

Lynn Jenkins

Tim Griffin

Adam Lind

Blair Bricker

Raul R. Labrador

Sen. Donald

Pat O'Brien

Tom Salham

Ken Calvert

Shelley Moore Capito

Sen. R. Tester

Christine

Mindy R. Pompeo

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Cynthia Lummis	Jeff Landry
Cory Gardner	Kevin Brady
Paul Broun	Tom McClintock
Blake Farenthold	Pete Sessions
Tom Cole	Steve Pearce
Jeff Duncan	Tim Huelskamp
Rodney Alexander	Gus Bilirakis
Paul Gosar	James Lankford
Mac Thornberry	Don Young
Lamar Smith	Lynn Westmoreland
Louie Gohmert	Denny Rehberg
Steve Stivers	Jason Chaffetz
Francisco "Quico" Canseco	Charles Boustany
Renee Elmers	K. Michael Conaway
Todd Rokita	Glenn Thompson
Mark Amodei	Bill Johnson
Rick Berg	John Fleming
John Sullivan	Steve Scalise
Mick Mulvaney	Lynn Jenkins
Mike Coffman	Tim Griffin
Randy Neugebauer	Alan Nunnelee
Jeff Denham	Blaine Luetkemeyer
Dana Rohrabacher	Raúl Labrador
Steve Womack	Pete Olson
Tom Latham	Ken Calvert
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