

July 13, 2010

The Honorable Nick Rahall  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rahall:

I write to express our opposition to H.R. 3534, the "Consolidated Land, Energy and Aquatic Resources Act of 2010." Although the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) understands the need to fully investigate and address the causes of the Deepwater Horizon incident which took place in the Gulf of Mexico earlier this year, H.R. 3534 will not help us find solutions to address this tragedy. Instead of considering legislation that will only serve to drive independent American oil and natural gas producers out of U.S. waters and make it more difficult for producers to operate on onshore federal lands, we urge the Committee to take a measured approach to this situation and find solutions only after the well has been plugged and the situation has been fully investigated. Although we understand the desire by some to act rashly and take immediate action, this will only create further confusion, hardship and job loss in the Gulf region and throughout the Intermountain West.

The IPAA looks forward to working with you and all of the members of the House Natural Resources Committee to find solutions to prevent tragedies such as the Deepwater Horizon in the future. However, passing legislation like H.R. 3534 will not help our nation achieve that goal. The IPAA is strongly opposed to H.R. 3534 and urge the Committee to take more time to fully understand the causes of the Deepwater Horizon incident and develop workable solutions to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Sincerely,



Barry Russell  
President & CEO  
Independent Petroleum Association of America

cc: Congressman Doc Hastings