



September 10, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

Recently, our organizations submitted detailed comments outlining our concerns with the proposed rule for well stimulation, including hydraulic fracturing on federal and Indian lands. We would like the opportunity to meet with you and discuss our concerns with the proposed rule in further detail. The effort to impose these new rules on independent oil and natural gas producers will have significant consequences for the industry and the federal government. Placing additional regulatory costs on small producers looking to operate on federal lands hardly seems to be a wise choice for a nation hungry for new energy supplies.

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposed rule will have enormous implications for America's oil and natural gas producers. The proposed rule is unnecessary, excessive and requires actions that no state currently regulating oil and natural gas production deems necessary, based on their decades of regulatory experience. The effort will also place undue economic burdens and time delays on independent producers that will inevitably drive many smaller companies away from exploring for oil and natural gas on federal lands.

Onshore federal lands hold an opportunity for increased production of American energy. This benefits our nation with greater energy security, increased employment opportunities and higher royalty revenues to the federal government. The proposed rule with its one-size-fits-all federal approach to regulating well construction, disclosure and water management overrides states which have been successfully regulating oil and natural gas activities for decades with an exemplary safety record.

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We look forward to meeting with you at your earliest possible convenience to further discuss this important matter.

Sincerely,

Barry Russell  
President & CEO  
IPAA

Tim Wigley  
President  
Western Energy Alliance