



## Jon Hrobksy, Policy Director Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber, Schreck

When it comes to offshore and onshore energy development, the Endangered Species Act and environmental and natural resources, Jon Hrobksy is well versed in the nuances of policy and politics that affect his clients. Jon has played a key role in crafting policy and shaping legislation for some of the major issues affecting energy production and natural resources in the United States.

Jon works on matters across the energy, environment and natural resources spectrum—from oil and gas, renewables, utilities, water and mining, to clean air, public lands and the Endangered Species Act. His recent successes include working closely with a client to get the Ski Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011 passed in the House and Senate and signed into law, opening up opportunities for year-round activities at resorts in Colorado and throughout the country, and working with a premier deepwater independent oil and gas operator to ensure independent companies can continue operating in the Gulf of Mexico after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Extensive experience at the Department of the Interior in the Office of the Secretary and as the Deputy at the offshore oil and gas agency gives Jon an unmatched perspective from which to counsel his clients. He frequently provides policy analysis on energy, environment and natural resource matters at conferences and professional and financial association meetings.

### **Previous Experience**

Director of Policy and Government Affairs, National Ocean Industries Association

Deputy Director of Policy and Planning, U.S. Minerals Management Service

Deputy Director for Congressional Affairs in the Secretary's Office, U.S. Department of Interior

Legislative Director for Congressman Bob Schaffer (R-CO)

Senior Legislative Assistant for Congressman Scott McInnis (R-CO)

### **Practices**

Air Quality, Endangered Species, Energy, Environment & Resource Strategies, Water

### **Energy**

As director of policy and government affairs for the National Ocean Industries Association, Jon worked on offshore energy policy and legislation affecting energy exploration and development, ranging from the potential expansion of offshore energy exploration in the Southeastern United States to the Deepwater Drilling Moratorium and de facto Shallow Water Moratorium.

As the deputy director of policy and planning for the U.S. Minerals Management Service, he helped lead the way in fostering conditions to enable the Service to achieve many benchmarks, including:

- the largest Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease sale in history
- the largest Arctic Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease sale in history
- the creation of the first renewable energy office
- over twenty three billion dollars collected and distributed, the highest amount of mineral revenue collections

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and distributions in history.

He also served as the principal Minerals Management Service liaison and advisor with the White House for all information and decisions made involving the historic decision to amend the Presidential Withdrawal of the Pacific coast, Atlantic seaboard and parts of the Central and Eastern Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas development. In that role, Jon worked closely with staff and Members of Congress as Congress made the decision to not reinstate the annual Congressional Moratoria for the first time in a generation.

As deputy director for congressional affairs in the Secretary's Office at the U.S. Department of Interior, Jon played a crucial role in formulating key provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act and Amendments to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. His responsibilities also included:

- managing presidential appointment nominees through the Senate confirmation process
- assisting with drafting legislation and the formulation of the Administration's position in testimony
- managing witness preparation for meetings and hearings
- creating communication and outreach plans while serving as a liaison with the Department's Congressional authorizing committees, individual Members of Congress and officials in the White House.

### **Representative Matters**

- Successfully represented oil and gas trade association in federal district court matter related to the Endangered Species Act, resulting in dismissal of the underlying action.
- Given its significant experience related to the implementation of the Endangered Species Act, Brownstein was selected to provide strategic direction to a major national nonprofit foundation regarding the proposed determination of whether the African lion is an endangered species as defined by the Endangered Species Act.
- For a utility client, worked to modify onerous EPA regulations and coordinated a strategy to amend those rules, including meetings with senior agency officials and other Administration policy makers. Also enlisted a congressional strategy that brought together a coalition of Members to push for a more favorable outcome in the rules. Ultimately, the EPA amended the rules in a way that saved our client hundreds of millions of dollars.

### **News & Events**

- Jon Hrobsky Testifies Before House Congressional Hearing On The Innovation In Offshore Leasing Act Of 2016
- Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck Announces Energy, Environment and Resource Strategies Department
- Leading Federal Water and Energy Experts Jon Hrobsky and Ryan Smith Join Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

### **Publications & Presentations**

- 2015 Washington Outlook, *Brownstein Client Alert*, Feb. 2, 2015
- Republicans Won Control of the U.S. Senate—Now What?, *Brownstein Client Alert*, November 6, 2014
- The Top 6 Takeaways From the EPA's Proposed Greenhouse Gas Rules, *Brownstein Client Alert*, June 2, 2014
- 2014 Washington Outlook, *Brownstein Client Alert*, January 30, 2014
- Proposed Carbon Rules for New Power Plants: What They Are and What They Mean, *Brownstein Client Alert*, September 20, 2013
- Obama's Climate Change Agenda Revealed, *Brownstein Client Alert*, June 25, 2013
- Natural Resources in the New Political Landscape: the election's impact on natural resources law and

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policy, Panel, University of Denver Sturm College of Law, November 13, 2012

## **Education**

- B.A., 1997, Fort Lewis College