



July 19, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

The Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) is dedicated to supporting and promoting the safe and responsible development of our nation's abundant energy resources. One of the keys to increasing American oil and natural gas production is to have a reasonable and predictable regulatory program for energy production on federal lands. Effective reorganization of the Department of the Interior (DOI) will help the nation improve management of public lands throughout the United States and support President Trump's efforts to reduce administrative and jurisdictional barriers throughout the federal government.

America's independent oil and natural gas producers recognize that operating on public lands requires a partnership with the federal land management agencies. However, IPAA members operating on public lands face a morass of overlapping regulatory requirements when working on those lands. IPAA strongly supports efforts to improve coordination among bureaus within DOI and with other federal agencies. We also applaud your plans to empower the agency field offices to resolve disputes and be more responsive to the public.

IPAA commends you and your team for taking steps to reduce administrative redundancy and remove organizational barriers within DOI. We welcome any ideas that will encourage creative decision-making and facilitate a more responsible approach to federal land management. We also encourage efforts to reduce the cost and complexity of operating on America's onshore and offshore lands. Independent producers stand ready to safely deliver reliable, affordable energy to Americans across the nation and your efforts to reorganize the Department of the Interior will help us achieve that important goal.

Thank you for continuing to engage with IPAA and our member companies regarding the reorganization of DOI. We look forward to continue working with you as the agency moves forward with its important work.

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Naatz
Senior Vice President, Government Relations
Independent Petroleum Association of America