



March 8, 2023

Dear Chairman Westerman,

The Independent Petroleum Association of America is pleased to support H.R.1335, the Transparency, Accountability, Permitting, and Production of American Resources Act, referred to as the TAPP Act. IPAA a national trade association representing thousands of American independent oil and natural gas producers. Our members, who operate in 33 states as well as offshore, are the primary producers of the nation's oil and natural gas and account for 83 percent of America's oil production and 90 percent of its natural gas output. These independent producers are a driving force in our economy and support roughly 4.5 million jobs in the United States. IPAA member companies are innovative leaders that broke the code to usher in the shale oil and natural gas revolution in the United States. Furthermore, our average member company employees 20 people. These small businesses are unique and are best served by cooperative regulation rather than a one-size-fits-all structure.

IPAA believes that many of the reforms laid out in the TAPP Act will help to revitalize oil and gas production on federal lands and waters to the benefit of the nation. The "multiple-use mandate" provided in the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) requires the BLM to balance the resources and uses of public lands to the benefit of the people. While this mandate includes far more than oil and gas production, it does not include less and IPAA believes that safe and responsible development for our resources needs to remain part of the equation.

There are several commonsense reforms in the TAPP Act that will lend to increased certainty for our members and will ultimately lead to a more streamlined process for federal oil and natural gas development. While IPAA is supportive of the bill in its entirety, there are a few key provisions that will be particularly impactful to independent producers on federal lands. IPAA supports the directive to require the Secretary of the Interior to resume quarterly lease sales. IPAA also believes it is important to include in a sale all parcels that were nominated and eligible for lease under the resource management plan of each state. IPAA also strongly supports the additional language on suspension of operations permits. Furthermore, IPAA strongly supports the language included for two region-wide annual lease sales in the prescribed offshore areas.

IPAA's COO, Dan Naatz testified before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources on Tuesday February 28, 2023 in support of the TAP Act. His testimony and comments can be found in the hearing record. IPAA commends the Natural Resources Committee for moving forward with meaningful permitting reforms that will help unleash the energy market and preserve American energy dominance.

Respectfully,

C. Jeffrey Eshelman, II
President & Chief Executive Officer
Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA)