

News Release



IPAMS
410 17th Street, Ste. 700
Denver, CO 80202

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Contact: Jon Haubert
(303) 623-0987
jhaubert@ipams.org

Western Energy Producers to Salazar: *0.07% is One Small Piece of Candy!*

(Denver)- The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) sent Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar 0.07 lbs of Plain Ol' Fashioned Fudge today from the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory in response to his comments this week that public lands were the "candy store of the oil and gas industry." IPAMS hopes the gift will serve as a reminder that natural gas and oil activities occupy less than 0.07% of public lands in the West while providing 27% of the nation's natural gas.

IPAMS sweet gesture comes after weeks of repeated harsh attacks from Secretary Salazar for exposing the Department's dismal leasing and permitting record since the Obama Administration took over.

"There has been a lot of fudging when it comes to DOI's characterization of energy development on America's federal lands", said IPAMS Executive Director Marc Smith.

"We hope this friendly gesture help soften the Secretary's political rhetoric and hyperbole, which has been so hurtful to the millions of hard working American men and women who supply our nation with the energy on which it runs."

IPAMS, which represents the 260,000 employees of the natural gas and oil industry in the Intermountain West, has been urging Salazar to allow responsible development of abundant US natural gas reserves in the Western United States. Natural gas development creates job growth, stimulates economic activity, and provides critically needed revenue to state and local governments to help fund education and infrastructure improvements. As the single largest manager of federal energy resources in the United States, the Department of Interior can help ensure that our Western States continue to play an important role in providing clean, affordable natural gas for generations to come.

"We purchased the fudge from the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory because we support local business. Unlike Interior, when you purchase something at the Factory, they actually give it to you the same day and allow you to eat it. Western energy producers have paid \$100 million for leases in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah that DOI refuses to issue. Similarly, leases already issued often cannot be developed because of unending requirements for further analysis", says Smith.

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