

# News Release



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## **IPAMS to House Natural Resources Committee: 'Let Us Develop Clean, Abundant American Energy!'**

*IPAMS Board member warns that CLEAR Act could curtail production, increase energy costs*

(DENVER)- The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) will testify before the House Natural Resources Committee on Thursday regarding provisions in the Consolidated Land, Energy, and Aquatic Resources (CLEAR) Act of 2009 that could have serious adverse effects on the domestic natural gas and oil industry in the Intermountain West.

Western energy producers supply about 27% of our nation's clean natural gas while disturbing less than 0.07% of non-park, non-wilderness public lands. Because it would make operating on Western public lands even more costly and difficult, the CLEAR Act could put at risk up to 15% of America's natural gas supply.

Alex Campbell, IPAMS Board member and Vice President of Land with Enduring Resources, will testify to the harmful effects that the CLEAR Act would have on the independent energy companies who drill 90% of U.S. wells and produce 82% of our nation's natural gas. Enduring Resources is a small independent natural gas exploration and production company headquartered in Denver, Colorado with 19 employees. Approximately 80% of Enduring's Utah wells and leasehold are on public lands.

"The CLEAR Act would fundamentally change the multiple-use management of public lands to an approach that will restrict all energy development—both conventional and renewable," said Campbell.

IPAMS believes that the CLEAR Act would add time-consuming delays by creating a new government bureaucracy and redundant layers of regulation, institute policies that will hamper the action of efficient market mechanisms, and significantly increase costs to produce natural gas and oil on federal lands.

"This legislation displays a lack of understanding of the business of natural gas and oil production. There are vast differences in geology, topography, environmental considerations, market conditions, and many other factors which make each lease unique," continued Campbell.

IPAMS agrees with the Department of Interior (DOI) Inspector General, who has cautioned that mandating production on federal leases or increasing lease fees would not enhance production, but will serve as a disincentive to investment in federal leases.

(more)

The natural gas and oil industry is already one of the largest non-income tax sources of federal revenue. In FY 2008, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) spent about \$90 million to administer the onshore natural gas and oil program. From that small investment, the federal government gained \$4.2 billion in royalties, rents, and bonuses. For every dollar invested, the program returned \$46.

“Industry assumes all the cost and risk of exploring for and producing natural gas and oil, supplies needed domestic energy, provides millions of jobs, and pays a significant return to the American taxpayer,” said Campbell. “On behalf of the independent energy producers of the Intermountain West and our 267,000 employees, I strongly urge Congress to think seriously before taking any action that would make domestic energy production more difficult and costly.”

[Click here to view full testimony.](#)

[Click here to view IPAMS position paper on CLEAR Act.](#)

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#### About IPAMS

*The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS), founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 independent natural gas and oil producers, service and supply companies, banking and financial institutions and industry consultants committed to environmentally responsible oil and natural gas development in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at [www.ipams.org](http://www.ipams.org).*