

News Release



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Utah's Natural Gas Producers Tout Affordable, Clean and Domestic Resource to State Policymakers *Industry presentation to Resources Committee to emphasize Utah's role in supplying nation with clean energy*

(Salt Lake City)- The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) announced today that its members will be meeting with lawmakers in Salt Lake City this week, stressing the essential role of natural gas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while addressing economic and security issues. IPAMS members will discuss Utah's vast energy resources and their importance in meeting our nation's energy needs in a presentation to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee on Wednesday.

"We have enormous opportunity here in Utah, where we are the 8th largest natural gas producing state in the country," said Lowell Braxton, IPAMS Utah representative. "The expanded use of natural gas is the most obvious and cost-effective way, immediately and over the long term, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," continued Braxton.

"Unfortunately, decisions are being made in Washington, D.C. that are limiting the ability of independent natural gas producers to explore and produce Utah's resources," said Braxton. "The Department of the Interior (DOI) is making decisions that could shift development to other states, and with it the economic stability, good paying jobs and tax revenue that should be staying in Utah."

DOI has called into question three Utah Resource Management Plans (RMP) completed last fall that govern the development of natural gas on federal lands. Actions such as the BLM report released last week on 77 lease parcels withdrawn by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar signal a disturbing disregard for the seven-year effort by the State of Utah, tribal and local governments, and the public. This uncertainty from the federal government threatens the economy and jobs in Utah, where 58% of natural gas production and 42% of oil is found on federal lands affecting 11,000 direct and indirect jobs.

(more)

"In an economic recession like we're having now, how can you disregard exploration and production jobs that carry an \$84,795 average annual salary compared to a state average of only \$32,000," continued Braxton. "Not to mention the \$395.7 million in government revenue from industry."

"It's important for our legislatures to remember that the natural gas we produce right here in Utah is playing an essential role in our transition to a clean energy future," Braxton said. "Utah's natural gas will play an important role in a carbon-constrained world. Since clean-burning natural gas emits about half the CO2 of coal, it is an essential part of any plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

IPAMS presentation to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee will be given on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 4:30pm in the Capitol Complex Senate Building, Room 210. IPAMS representatives will be on hand to speak with media.

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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 energy development in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at www.ipams.org