



October 16, 2014

The Honorable Tom Udall
U.S. Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso, M.D.
U.S. Senate
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Udall and Barrasso:

Thank you so much for your leadership on S.2440 the *BLM Permit Processing Improvement Act of 2014*. Western Energy Alliance very much appreciates this bipartisan effort to ensure funding for oil and natural gas permitting on federal lands.

Our members are producers who operate in an environmentally responsible manner on public lands in New Mexico, Wyoming, and across the West. Permitting is a critical issue, as delays can disrupt development programs and cause rigs to be reallocated off public lands, or even to states not predominated by public lands. S.2440 will ensure that basic funding remains past 2015.

We are very encouraged that this bill had such strong bipartisan support, thanks to your leadership. We hope we can work together on future bills that likewise enable responsible energy development on federal lands while providing economic and job growth for local communities throughout the West.

The compromise was achieved even in this difficult usually partisan climate in Washington because all sides were willing to work together. Oil and natural gas producers agreed to higher fees for federal permits in exchange for regulatory certainty into the future. With a targeted bill, we were able to focus on the immediate issue at hand, restoring funding that would otherwise run out in 2015.

I would like to thank Kaveh Sadeghzadeh and Justin Memmott in particular. Without their hard work on this bill, it would not have garnered the support from all parties, including the agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Sgamma", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kathleen M. Sgamma
Vice President of Government & Public Affairs