



April 10, 2015

The Honorable Rand Paul
U.S. Senate
124 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Todd Young
U.S. House of Representatives
1007 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Paul and Representative Young:

Thank you for introducing the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act, S. 226 and HR 427. The bill provides common-sense ways to ensure regulatory accountability to the American people through their elected representatives and to reduce the unintended negative consequences of new regulations on economic and job growth.

Regulatory reform continues to be a particularly high priority for Western Energy Alliance. The West provides nearly one-fourth of America's oil and natural gas production, including 87% of the nation's federal onshore oil and 96% of federal onshore natural gas. The Western exploration and production industry employs 268,110 workers nationwide, generating over \$84.3 billion in economic impact. However, overregulation by the federal government continues to push development off federal lands. The REINS Act is a step in the right direction for reversing that trend.

Independent oil and natural gas producers, many of which are small businesses, are stymied on a daily basis from developing American energy, creating jobs, and growing the economy. We're struggling to comply with several rounds of EPA regulations, and must continually petition for reconsideration to correct poorly thought-out new requirements that are impractical to implement. The Interior Department recently finalized a hydraulic fracturing rule that is completely redundant with state regulation and will unnecessarily increase the cost of drilling on federal lands without providing any demonstrable environmental benefit. These are just a few examples of the overregulation we have faced in the last several years.

We applaud the REINS Act for addressing major rules, and would like to work with you also on other regulations that may not meet the threshold but which cumulatively add up to a large impediment to productive economic development. Thank you for introducing this important act, and you can count on us to assist in any way we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Sgamma", with a horizontal line underneath.

Kathleen M. Sgamma
Vice President of Government & Public Affairs