

Media Advisory



Western Energy Alliance
410 17th Street, Ste. 700
Denver, CO 80202

Date: September 7, 2011
Contact: Jon Haubert
(303) 623-0987
jhaubert@westernenergyalliance.org

Impact of Categorical Exclusions on Jobs, Revenue and Energy Judge's Ruling Prompts Congressional Oversight Hearing; Western Energy Alliance to Testify

(Washington D.C.) – On Friday, September 9, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources will hold an oversight hearing entitled “*Impacts to Onshore Jobs, Revenue, and Energy: Review and Status of Sec. 390 Categorical Exclusions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.*” Subcommittee Chairman Doug Lamborn (R-CO) is holding the hearing to explore policies that were arbitrarily changed in May 2010 by the Department of the Interior (DOI) and U.S. Forest Service concerning the use of statutory categorical exclusions (CX). On August 12th, Chief U.S. District Judge Nancy Freudenthal [ruled against](#) the government in *Western Energy Alliance v. Interior Secretary Salazar* and issued a nationwide injunction against the CX policies.

Kathleen Sgamma, Western Energy Alliance’s Director of Government & Public Affairs, will testify on behalf of the organization’s 400 member companies and their hundreds of thousands of employees who are committed to environmentally responsible oil and natural gas development on federal lands in the West. Randy Bolles, Manager of Regulatory Affairs – Western Division, Devon Energy Corporation, will also testify.

CXs encourage domestic energy development by eliminating redundant red tape in situations where the impact from oil and natural gas development is minimal and/or environmental analysis already exists. By providing certainty in the regulatory process, CXs are a tool for helping achieve the potential outlined in the [Blueprint for Western Energy Prosperity](#). The study finds that by 2020 the western oil and natural gas industry could more than double economic investment to \$58 billion, create nearly 70,000 jobs, and displace oil imports from the Middle East, Venezuela and Russia. Government policies such as the overturned CX policy make western oil and natural gas development more difficult, time consuming, and expensive. [Click here to watch a two-minute summary of the Blueprint.](#)

Kathleen Sgamma, Director of Government & Public Affairs, will be available for questions after the hearing.

Who: Kathleen Sgamma, Director of Government and Public Affairs, Western Energy Alliance

What: House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy & Mineral Resources hearing on the impact of Section 390 Categorical Exclusions

When: September, 9, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

Where: 1324 Longworth House Office Building and online at <http://naturalresources.house.gov/>

###

About Western Energy Alliance

Western Energy Alliance, founded in 1974 as the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 companies engaged in all aspects of environmentally responsible exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the West. More information on Western Energy Alliance and its members is available at www.westernenergyalliance.org.