

# News Release



**Western Energy Alliance**  
410 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 700  
Denver, CO 80202

Date: October 18, 2010  
Contact: Jon Haubert  
(303) 623-0987  
[jhaubert@westernenergyalliance.org](mailto:jhaubert@westernenergyalliance.org)

## **Oil and Natural Gas Producers to Utah Policymakers: *Federal policies are jeopardizing state's economic success, job creation***

(Salt Lake City)- Western Energy Alliance, formerly the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS), will meet with policymakers in Salt Lake City this week, stressing the essential role oil and natural gas development plays in advancing Utah's economic and renewable energy goals.

Western Energy Alliance members will discuss Utah's vast energy resources and how federal policies such as permitting delays, arbitrary impediments to project approvals, failure to issue leases, and lease cancellations are putting at risk thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in government revenue. Western Energy Alliance will present to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee on Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in the Senate Building, Room 210.

"Federal land policies are stifling oil and gas activity and preventing \$1.8 billion of investment and about 7,500 associated jobs in Utah," said Lowell Braxton, Western Energy Alliance's Utah representative.

"In tough economic times, the federal government should not serve as an obstacle to significant job creation, especially since oil and natural gas exploration and production jobs carry an \$84,795 average annual salary compared to the state average of \$39,220," continued Braxton. "Industry also funds schools, public safety, and roads to the tune of \$346.1 million annually. With the state facing severe budget deficits, that's a lot of funding put at risk by adverse federal policies."

***Western Energy Alliance's presentation to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee will be given on Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in the Senate Building, Room 210. Western Energy Alliance representatives will be on hand to speak with media.***

###

### **About Western Energy Alliance**

Western Energy Alliance, 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, industry consultants, and their 480,000 employees who are committed to environmentally responsible natural gas and oil development in the Intermountain West. More information on Western Energy Alliance and its members is available at [www.westernenergyalliance.org](http://www.westernenergyalliance.org).