

News Release



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

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Contact: Jon Haubert
(303) 623-0987
jhaubert@ipams.org

Western Producers to Dispel Leasing Myths on Capitol Hill *Will present Congress with solutions to increasing domestic energy production*

(Denver)- Western Energy Alliance today announced it will travel to Washington, D.C. next week with fifty members and ten state representatives, county commissioners, ranchers and conservationists in an effort to clear the oft-repeated myth that American oil and natural gas companies are refusing to develop public lands they have leased. Recently, President Obama repeated this false assertion, and Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Bill Nelson (D-FL) introduced “use it or lose it” legislation in an attempt to blame companies for non-producing leases.

“Western Energy Alliance will present to Congress real solutions and reasonable recommendations to increase onshore domestic energy production,” said Marc Smith, Executive Director.

This week, the Department of the Interior (DOI) released a report showing that 43% of onshore leased acreage is producing, more than previous estimates. Western Energy Alliance estimates that about half the non-producing acreage is stuck in the long, bureaucratic process required by the government before development is allowed.

“DOI continues to ignore all the environmental analysis, regulatory, and permitting work that companies are performing on their leases, and its own role in holding up development. And the rhetoric about ‘use it or lose it’ conveniently overlooks the realities on the ground, which are that not all leases contain oil or natural gas.

“Increasing domestic production requires strong leadership by the Administration to ensure that oil and natural gas development projects on federal land are approved in a timely fashion,” concluded Smith.

Western Energy Alliance members will meet with over 250 Members of Congress and their staffs during their visit to Washington next week. Western Energy Alliance President James Schroeder will appear before a House Natural Resources Committee hearing on Tuesday, April 5th at 10:00 am.

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Western Energy Alliance, founded in 1974, 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.