



August 18, 2011

The Honorable Geoff Davis  
United State House of Representatives  
1119 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:

Thank you for introducing the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act (REINS Act). 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 is a particularly high priority for Western Energy Alliance. Our recent [Blueprint for Western Energy Prosperity](#) finds that by 2020, oil and natural gas production from the western U.S. alone could equal current imports from Russia, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Algeria, Nigeria and Colombia combined. However, over regulation by the federal government threatens producers' ability to meet that full potential and displace imports from unfriendly countries. The *Blueprint* calls for a moratorium on new regulation until such time as the economy improves, unemployment is lowered, and new regulations are properly justified. The REINS Act is a step in the right direction.

For example, independent oil and natural gas producers are struggling to comply with new EPA regulations, which in many cases are poorly thought out and impractical. EPA is attempting to implement more regulations simultaneously than it is able to manage effectively. Companies are expected to comply with new rules before EPA can provide implementing guidelines that actually work, yet EPA continues to add new regulations.

Western producers, many of which are small businesses, are stymied on a daily basis from developing American energy, creating jobs, and spurring the economy. We applaud the REINS Act for addressing major rules, and would like to work with you in the future on other regulations that may not meet the threshold but which cumulatively add up to a large impediment to productive economic development.

Thank you again for introducing this important act, and you can count on us to help.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Sgamma  
Director of Government & Public Affairs