

February 7, 2013

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I write in regards to the Bureau of Land Management's ("BLM") proposed rule to regulate hydraulic fracturing on public lands. I understand that the proposed rule, 77 Fed. Reg. 27, 691 (May 11, 2012), is currently being reviewed and revised by the Administration.

It is my hope that the Administration will use this opportunity to propose a rule that ensures the protection of public health and the environment when oil and gas is produced on public lands. The BLM manages more than 750 million acres of federal and Indian subsurface estate, and in 2012, reported having more than 48,000 active oil and gas leases covering nearly 38 million acres in 34 different states. Production of oil and gas resources from our public lands is of great importance to our Nation's energy supply. At the same time, residents of neighboring communities must have confidence that the water they drink and the air they breathe will be free of harmful pollutants.

Increased natural gas production has been a springboard for the U.S. economy and domestic manufacturing, but strong environmental protections are needed for continued development of these reserves. A properly constructed rule with sound requirements for public disclosure, well integrity, and monitoring, will set a standard that both state and international governments can look to as a model for developing oil and gas resources in an environmentally responsible way.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
Chairman

Cc: Jeffrey Zients, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget
Nancy Sutley, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality
Heather Zichal, Deputy Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change