

May 13, 2010

Dear Secretary Salazar,

As former federal land management agency officials, wildlife managers, and energy regulators throughout the West, we applaud your announcement of new policies for onshore oil and gas lease reform and your efforts to restore balance to the leasing process on public lands.

We recognize the arduous and complex task of balancing energy development with stewardship of our land, air, water, and wildlife. As defined by multiple-use mandates of federal land management agencies, it is important to preserve the integrity of our public lands and our wildlife habitat as we develop our important natural resources. Your proposal to reform the leasing policies for oil and gas seems to restore much needed balance to the leasing process, and is an important step forward for this administration.

Policies like those you outlined - but have not yet finalized and implemented - will help to restore balance and common-sense values to management of our public lands, while still allowing development of our energy resources. They represent good- government policy that will balance multiple uses and are in synch with public and local opinion.

As you have said on many different occasions, these lands belong to American taxpayers. Over the past decade, a great deal of taxpayer dollars and agency resources have gone into dealing with protests and lawsuits. Your reforms to the BLM oil and gas leasing program will provide certainty to oil and gas companies while restoring balance to the management of our public lands, decreasing the amount of controversy over leasing decisions and adequately involving the public in the leasing process.

We commend you for your work to date, and encourage you to move forward with this important onshore lease reform work.

Sincerely,

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