

News Release



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Experts to Congress: Natural Gas Key to Renewable Fuels *Intermountain West leading the way in meeting America's energy challenges*

(DENVER) – Experts from three federal agencies testified before Congress today regarding the importance of natural gas, and consequently the Intermountain West, in the production of renewable fuels. The Intermountain West contains one third of all U.S. gas reserves for the lower 48 states, assuring that the region will continue to play a leading role in meeting America's energy challenges for years to come.

"The Intermountain West is the only domestic region that has experienced a significant increase in natural gas production and, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), the Intermountain West will contribute the largest supply of natural gas by 2030," said Marc Smith, Executive Director of the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS).

Today's testimony also emphasized the need for an efficient and fair leasing, permitting, and planning process for granting access to public lands in the West for natural gas development. Public lands contain the largest onshore reserves of natural gas in the nation and currently supply eleven percent of the nation's natural gas.

"Federal lands contain nearly 200 trillion cubic feet of technically recoverable natural gas, and as today's testimony points out, this is energy that we as a country need for renewable energy sources as well as the traditional uses of natural gas on which we as a country depend," Smith added.

According to the EIA, by 2030 U.S. consumption of natural gas will be 27 trillion cubic feet (Tcf), up from 21.9 Tcf today. The EIA estimates that the Intermountain West natural gas production will double over the next two decades, surpassing production in the Gulf of Mexico.

"As long as the U.S. uses natural gas, independent oil and gas producers in the Intermountain West will play a vital role in helping to meet the nation's energy challenges," concluded Smith.

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IPAMS, founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 independent oil and gas producers, service and supply companies, banking and financial institutions and industry consultants in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at www.ipams.org.

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