

News Release

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Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS)

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IPAMS Challenges Salazar's basis for fighting Roan plan

73,166 of 74,906 comments on BLM plan were form letters; few from within Colorado

(DENVER) – The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) said today that Congressman John Salazar (D-CO 3rd) may be caving in to pressure from out-of-state special interests who oppose development on the Roan Plateau.

Of the total 74,906 comments the BLM received on the Resource Management Plan for the Naval Oil Shale Reserves (NOSR) 1 & 3, 73,166 were form letters (65,543 of which were sent via email), and only 7% of all comments came from Colorado residents.

"I believe that Congressman Salazar is trying to do the right thing for Colorado, but it seems he is being misled," said Marc W. Smith, IPAMS Executive Director.

"There is no doubt that there are special interest groups who would like to stop all energy development in Colorado. We also know these groups are extremely competent in generating form letters and mass email campaigns," said Smith. "But I'm not sure that Coloradans want activists from Boston and San Francisco deciding what's best for our state."

Smith's remarks came in response to a story in today's Grand Junction *Daily Sentinel* in which Salazar cites the number of public comments to the BLM in explaining his opposition to opening the NOSR's for energy development.

"I understand that Congressman Salazar wishes to be responsive to his constituents," Smith said. "But more than 9 out of 10 comments came from people out-of-state, most of whom have probably never even been to Western Colorado."

"Most Coloradans recognize that the BLM's plan to allow limited and balanced energy development on the NOSR's will mean billions of dollars for Colorado and local communities and high-paying jobs for our state's working families. I appeal to Congressman Salazar to ignore the out-of-state special interests and start

listening to the needs of his constituents who want lower energy costs and a strong economy supported by responsible development," Smith said.

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The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (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 committed to environmentally responsible oil and natural gas development in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at www.ipams.org.