

News Release

IPAMS

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Indian Tribes, Energy Companies Discuss Partnerships

Tribes and industry gather to respond to U.S. need for increased domestic energy production

(DENVER)- The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS), the Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT), and the United States Department of Interior hosted the *Indian Lands Energy Investment and Prospects Conference* in Denver on March 6th and 7th. The event brought together tribal and industry leaders throughout the West to discuss the opportunities and challenges of developing energy sources on tribal lands.

Participants were especially eager to share success stories and information about the new policy environment resulting from the passage of Title V of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the "Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self Determination Act.

Industry representatives and tribal leaders met to explore mutually-beneficial partnership opportunities. "This was an excellent venue for participants to discuss the new regulatory and legal environment, the resource potential on Indian lands, development opportunities, and ways to build mutually-beneficial partnerships," said **A. David Lester**, Executive Director of CERT.

Keynote Speaker **Dr. Patricia Limerick**, Chair of the Center of the American West and

professor at the University of Colorado in Boulder, discussed “bridging the divide” between two communities—the oil and gas industry and Indian tribes—who often face the challenge of overcoming negative stereotypes. Robert Middleton, Director of the Interior Department’s Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED), discussed the current federal regulatory environment and offered ways Tribes and oil and gas producers can develop mutually-beneficial energy policy.

The conference began with a luncheon honoring **Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell** for championing Title V, followed by tribal, government, and industry leaders speaking on the resource potential and government policy, the legal environment, and opportunities in Indian energy development. “As energy development continues on Indian lands, it is vital to share information from both the Indian and industry perspectives. This is an important meeting and a good venue for exploring business opportunities,” said **Marc W. Smith**, Executive Director of IPAMS.

Established in 1975, CERT represents 59 Indian Tribes and supports member Tribes as they develop their management capabilities and use their energy resources as the foundation for building stable, diversified self-governing economies according to each Tribe’s own values and priorities. Formed in 1974, IPAMS is a regional trade association representing approximately 400 independent oil and natural gas producers, service and supply companies, legal, banking and financial institutions and environmental consultants in the intermountain West.

For more information about the conference please contact Glenda Archuleta at CERT at 303-282-7576 or Jon Bargas at IPAMS at 303-623-0987.

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 gas development in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at www.ipams.org.