

# News Release



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## **IPAMS Hails Removal of Public Land Access Provisions in Energy Bill 'Consumers, businesses send message to Congress-- we want more domestic energy production'**

(Denver) – The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) today commended congressional leaders for removing provisions from the Energy Bill that would have reduced domestic energy supplies and hurt American businesses and consumers. Industry remains concerned, however, over tax increases in the legislation that will rob energy producers of the capital they need to sustain energy production. The Bill passed the House of Representatives today with a 235-181 vote.

The ominous land use provisions, which were contained in the original House-passed version of the energy legislation, would have made significant amounts of the energy under public lands in the Intermountain West off-limits to development. IPAMS has been a leader in the fight to remove the language that would have discouraged domestic energy production, reduced supplies of clean-burning natural gas, and driven up energy bills for American businesses and families.

Marc Smith, Executive Director of IPAMS, praised the removal of the public land access measures. "I think it's becoming increasingly unpopular to support policies that decrease our nation's domestic energy production and increase the cost consumers pay for energy," he said. "Congress is starting to get the message from business and consumers that in this period of economic uncertainty, they don't want less domestic energy production; they want more.

"Advocates of the anti-industry provisions failed to gain the support of their colleagues in Congress for measures that would erode our ability to provide clean and affordable energy. These provisions didn't make sense from an economic, environmental, or national security perspective."

Most believe the measures would have had a hugely negative impact on energy supplies and decreased employment in the West and income to local communities. "At a time when energy prices continue to increase, now is not the time to discourage domestic energy production through increased restrictions and other policies aimed at punishing American companies," said Smith. "Since natural gas is the bridge to our renewable energy future, we need to take steps to ensure sustainable supplies."

IPAMS applauded Congress for considering the millions of low income Americans who depend on affordable natural gas from the Intermountain West. "One in five Americans currently qualify for energy assistance, and that percentage will increase if we fail to develop the abundant energy found under federal lands in critical supply regions like the Intermountain West.

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"Our industry spent a considerable amount of time explaining to Congress the relationship between development on public lands in the Intermountain West and affordable energy," Smith said. "The congressional majority finally heard loud and clear from consumers and businesses that they don't want to pay more for energy."

Restrictions for drilling on one of the nation's most prospective natural gas reserves, the Naval Oil Shale Reserves (NOSR) that are located in northwestern Colorado, were also removed from the bill. IPAMS remains concerned, however, by ongoing efforts to re-insert a one-year moratorium on leasing on the NOSR in an Interior Department appropriations bill.

"The BLM plan for the Roan was developed over nearly a decade and is one of the most restrictive ever approved. Slipping in this measure in an appropriations bill will unfairly deny Americans of the energy they own. It would undermine the hard work of the local communities, land managers, and other stakeholders who spent countless hours on the plan," Smith concluded.

IPAMS, founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 independent oil and natural 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](http://www.ipams.org).