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Domestic Energy Producers to Congress: 'Let Us Produce!'

*Continued Access to American Energy on American Lands Essential to Ensuring
Reliable and Affordable Supplies of Natural Gas*

DENVER – The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) warned today that passage of H.R. 6251 would make energy development on federal lands even more difficult and costly for domestic natural gas producers. According to industry experts, passage of H.R. 6251 would limit the ability of domestic producers to meet future energy demands.

"We understand the frustration with OPEC and the political motivation to 'punish' someone for high oil prices, but Congress needs to be reminded not to strike with blunt force. Vengeful policies may actually be most harmful to the small, independent businesses that produce 82% of U.S. natural gas and 68% of U.S. oil. These independent producers are a driving force behind our domestic energy supply and should not fall victim to the misdirected wrath of Congress," said Marc Smith, IPAMS Executive Director.

"Some in Congress are ignoring important facts about the nature of energy development. Those of us who work in this industry understand that there are regulatory, business, and technological reasons why we must keep an inventory of land under lease, even if those lands are not currently producing.

"With the regulatory hurdles that are already in place, most companies are in an all-out sprint to develop the energy on a lease within a 10 year period. If H.R. 6251 were to become law, the resulting burden on domestic energy producers would make it difficult for them to meet our nation's long term energy needs," said Smith.

"Most Americans understand that the current symbolic measures proposed by a few in Congress will do nothing to address the energy challenges we now face. If our leaders in Washington are serious about solving our current energy crisis, they need to begin thinking beyond sound bites and enact policies to encourage development of our vast energy resources, especially those found beneath the public lands of the Intermountain West. Making it more expensive for companies to develop energy will only serve to further constrict supply and drive prices even higher," concluded Smith.

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About IPAMS

Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (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. To learn more about IPAMS and its members visit ipams.org.