

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
House Committee on Appropriations
2007 Rayburn HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We write to urge the inclusion of language in the upcoming Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2018 to block the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) ongoing efforts to alter Onshore Orders 3, 4, and 5.

The BLM has attempted to justify these changes by claiming they must act to ensure the correct amount of royalty is paid for oil and gas production on federal lands. However, the proposed changes will continue to reduce oil and gas production on federal lands. From 2010-2014 oil production increased 89% and natural gas production increased 37% on non-federal lands. In contrast, oil production fell 10% and natural gas production fell 31% on federal lands.

The proposed changes will place a number of additional costs and requirements on producers operating on federal lands and will likely have little to no measurable impact on reporting accuracy. These additional burdens will hit small producers the hardest as they will not be able to afford the costs for new technology or staffing increases, which will be necessary to comply with new reporting requirements. This will ultimately result in significant job loss and a reduction in royalty receipts paid to federal, state, and local governments due to the fact that most marginal wells on federal lands will be forced to shut-in.

Accordingly, we ask that you include language similar to the following:

None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the final rules relating to "Onshore Oil and Gas Operations; Federal and Indian Oil and Gas Leases; Site Security" (81 Fed. Reg. 81356), "Onshore Oil and Gas Operations; Federal and Indian Oil and Gas Leases; Measurement of Gas" (81 Fed. Reg. 81516), and "Onshore Oil and Gas Operations; Federal and Indian Oil and Gas Leases; Measurement of Oil" (81 Fed. Reg. 81462).

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar D.D.S.
Member of Congress



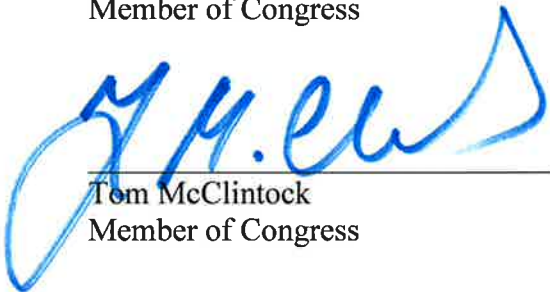
Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



Brian Babin
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress