

July 25, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Representative Pelosi:

As the Executive Committee of the Energy Producing States Coalition (EPSC) and on behalf of the EPSC membership, we wish to express our support of H.R. 2728, the *Protecting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act*, and encourage all Members of the House of Representatives to support this important bill.

EPSC is a group of state legislators working together to develop positions on matters of common interest to energy producing states and advocate for sound public policy on issues that affect domestic energy production and transmission. The group was founded in 2011 and currently includes legislators representing 13 states including Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Mississippi, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

EPSC believes that expanded domestic energy development is vital to economic growth and job creation. In the midst of the recent economic downturn, the energy sector led the economic recovery and job creation and will likely continue to do so. The dramatic increase in domestic natural resource development over the past few years has been largely due to the innovative process of hydraulic fracturing. Currently, states where this process takes place have established regulations that developers are familiar with to ensure that necessary precautions are taken to safely develop energy while at the same time protect the environment. As legislators representing many of these states, as well as other elected, community, business and labor officials, we are committed to protecting our environment in addition to developing our natural resources to provide needed economic growth and job creation.

Existing state regulations for hydraulic fracturing have proven successful, providing strong environmental, health and safety protections as well as regulatory certainty. As state legislators, we understand the specific needs and concerns of our communities more so than the federal government ever could. With different geologies among the states, a standard federal regulation on hydraulic fracturing would not be as effective as existing state by state regulations that take into account state specific concerns.

The potential for delaying natural resource development would have a serious negative impact on our states in terms of reduced employment, economic growth and federal mineral revenues. Adding yet another layer of regulation would increase federal spending and provide the federal government with yet another excuse to reduce our state's share of federal mineral revenues. Already this year, the Department of the Interior has arbitrarily reduced state's share of federal mineral revenues by nearly \$110 million and adding additional federal regulations will only limit state's share by reducing overall natural resource development within our states on public lands.

H.R. 2728 allows those regulators who know the community best to be the one's leading oversight of those communities. It would eliminate the potential for duplicative regulations whose only goal would seem to be to delay the production of natural resources on public lands. Existing state regulations are

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already in place and as technology improves, development should not be hindered by extended regulatory delays brought on by the federal government.

Greater clarity about the ability to access and develop domestic resources is necessary for long-term investment decisions. With so much uncertainty due to regulatory adjustments advocated by Washington, DC, potential investment in our states and workforce likely will be delayed or even cancelled. In order for investment to remain in our communities, the federal government must foster a more certain and encouraging operating environment for energy producers. Approving H.R. 2728 would allow existing state hydraulic fracturing regulations to remain the primary regulation entities must follow. The Department of the Interior should recognize the value of and defer to existing state regulations and focus on other more pressing issues currently facing the Department.

In closing, EPSC urges both Republicans and Democrats to vote in support of American energy development. Harnessing our domestic resources is in the best interest of our nation's consumers. We look forward to the House's action on this important measure.

Sincerely,



Representative Roger Barrus
 Utah State Legislature
 Chairman, EPSC



Speaker Thomas Lubnau
 Wyoming Legislature
 Immediate Past Chairman, EPSC



Senator Cathy Giessel
 Alaska Legislature
 Chairman-Elect, EPSC

CC:

Rep. Doc Hastings (R, WA 4), Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee
 Rep. Peter DeFazio (D, OR 4), Ranking Member, House Natural Resources Committee
 Rep. Doug Lamborn (R, CO 5), Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
 Rep. Rush Holt (D, NJ 12), Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
 Rep. Bill Flores (R, TX 14), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
 Rep. Louie Gohmert (R, TX 1), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
 Rep. Rob Bishop (R, UT 1), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
 Rep. Rob Wittman (R, VA 1), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
 Rep. Paul C. Broun (R, GA 10), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
 Rep. John Fleming (R, LA 4), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
 Rep. Glenn Thompson (R, PA 5), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
 Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R, WY), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
 Rep. Dan Benishek (R, MI 1), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
 Rep. Jeff Duncan (R, SC 3), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
 Rep. Paul Gosar (R, AZ 4), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
 Rep. Mark Amodei (R, NV 2), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals

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Rep. Chris Stewart (R, UT 2), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
Rep. Steve Daines (R, MT), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
Rep. Kevin Cramer (R, ND), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
Rep. Steven Horsford (D, NV 4), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
Rep. Matthew Cartwright (D, PA 17), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
Rep. Jim Costa (D, CA 20), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
Rep. Niki Tsongas (D, MA 3), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
Rep. Jared Huffman (D, CA 2), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D, CA 47), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
Rep. Tony Cardenas (D, CA 29), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D, AZ 7), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
Rep. Colleen Hanabusa (D, HI 1), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals
Rep. Joe Garcia (D, FL 26), Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals