

GEBAUER

ST, TEXAS

HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
DC 20515-4319
(202) 225-4005
(202) 225-9615
randy.house.gov

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

611 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
SUITE 220
LUBBOCK, TX 79401
(806) 763-1611

1510 SCURRY STREET
SUITE B
BIG SPRING, TX 79720
(432) 264-0722

500 CHESTNUT STREET
SUITE 819
ABILENE, TX 79602
(325) 675-9779

October 3, 2013

Dear Secretary Jewell,

During the lapse in appropriations, the Department of the Interior and other government agencies are reducing operations to essential functions. As a result, the National Park Service (NPS) has closed the World War II Memorial and other national monuments to the public, often closing easily accessible, outdoor monuments with the use of barriers and posted guards. However, it has come to our attention that while these memorials are closed to the public, they are authorized to open for "First Amendment activities."

We have a number of questions about the memorial closures and this limited exception. First, we would like to know why it is necessary to fence off open-air sites that are not usually heavily staffed. Is closing and barricading the national memorials considered an essential use of resources? Why was the decision made to barricade the memorials?

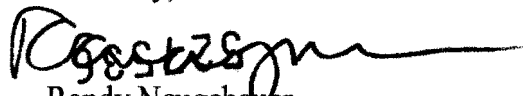
Second, we are curious about what you are classifying as a First Amendment activity. The veterans that visited the WWII Memorial this week were part of an Honor Flight trip, which is a commendable program that pays tribute to our nation's veterans with visits to Washington, DC and the memorials built in their honor. We were told that their visit was considered a First Amendment activity, which is why they were eventually permitted to enter the WWII Memorial. We were pleased they were allowed to enter their memorial and that veterans from Texas will enjoy the same access when they visit.

However, we were very disappointed that other members of the public were blocked from entering the memorial because they were not conducting a First Amendment activity. It would seem that a veteran who is part of an Honor Flight trip would be allowed in, while a veteran visiting with his family would be barred. That type of arbitrary distinction is unacceptable. Why is one effort to memorialize fallen comrades permitted while the other is banned?

Furthermore, are any protestors conducting "first amendment activities" allowed in to NPS sites during the government shutdown? Does that mean that you are prioritizing access for protestors over veterans? We certainly hope that is not the case.

We have voted to appropriate funds for the continued operation of the National Park Service, and we are urging our counterparts in the Senate to do the same. In the meantime, we would appreciate an answer to these questions, and we strongly encourage you to allow our veterans equal access to our memorials.

Sincerely,



Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress

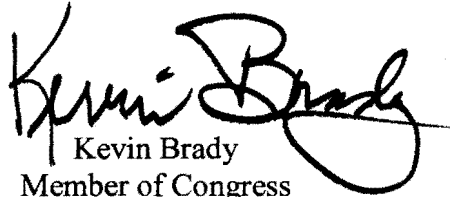
RECEIVED
2013 OCT 11 11:19:11
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT



John Carter
Member of Congress



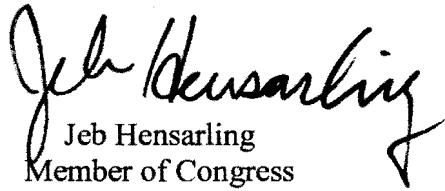
Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



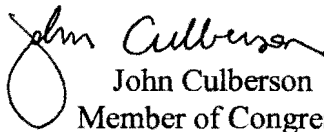
K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress



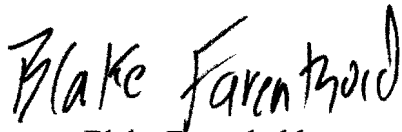
Randy Weber
Member of Congress



John Culberson
Member of Congress



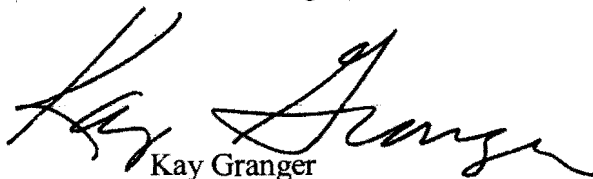
Michael McCaul
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress



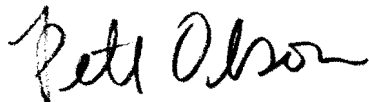
Sam Johnson
Member of Congress



Kay Granger
Member of Congress



Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress



Pete Olson
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 27, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

963938

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Earlier this year, Speaker Paul Ryan assembled several committee Chairmen in the U.S. House of Representatives to establish a Task Force aimed at reducing regulatory burdens to grow our economy. Of the principles outlined, we found that it is absolutely critical for the federal government to regulate smarter while also delivering affordable and reliable energy to American families and businesses. The findings of the Task Force's recently released white paper took months to assemble, and incorporated ideas from many Members of Congress, individuals, small business owners, and recognized regulatory experts.

We call your attention to the important findings of this white paper because the Department of the Interior has been a major offender of these principles – promulgating thousands of duplicative and burdensome rulemakings that do little to offer measurable impacts on the safety, security or economic well-being of our nation's citizens. Rather, many of the Department's regulations penalize and discourage entrepreneurship, overstep state jurisdiction, and drive up costs for developing energy resources on federal lands. The net effect of these burdensome rules is to make energy development on federal lands cost prohibitive and ultimately to penalize the citizens and economies of many states whose lands remain largely in federal control. A recent example of this is the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposed Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resources Conservation Rule (81 Fed. Reg. 6616) to further regulate methane emissions.

The BLM lacks Clean Air Act jurisdiction – a law that clearly charges the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in partnership with states, to regulate emissions. Moreover, according to the EPA’s own data, U.S. emissions from natural gas systems are lower than they were in 2005 – despite our nation’s vast increase in natural gas development over the same period. Similarly, a recent study conducted in part with scientists from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found that global methane increases since 2006 are likely from biogenic sources; rather than thermogenic emissions such as those associated with natural resource production - contradicting emissions inventories.¹

We are concerned that the BLM has rushed forward to finalize new methane emissions measures as a solution in search of a problem. Unfortunately, these regulations fail to address BLM’s ongoing permitting delays for natural gas gathering line rights-of-way. The best method to capture methane emissions from a well site is through the construction of natural gas gathering lines and pipelines. According to the BLM manual, BLM aims for a 60-day review of pending right-of-way permits so companies can construct pipelines. Yet, in data submitted by the BLM itself to the House Natural Resources Committee, not a single field office has been able to meet this target. In many cases, BLM is taking over six months to process a permit. This is unacceptable.

This rule adds another layer of duplicative federal regulation on top of already existing federal and state regulations. The rule oversteps BLM’s regulatory jurisdiction, and completely fails to address crucial failures by the BLM to capture methane emissions through common sense methods such as timely right-of-way permitting. For these reasons, we urge the agency to withdraw this misguided effort.

The development of oil and natural gas on federal lands remains a critical component of our nation’s renewed status as a global energy leader. Energy development is a generator of jobs and revenue that impact federal, state and local budgets. Most importantly, domestic energy production has helped to lower energy prices for American families, manufacturers, and businesses, which in turn have helped to further stabilize our economy. Rather than put all of these benefits in jeopardy, the BLM should continue to work collaboratively to drive more innovative technologies that build upon existing methane emissions decreases, while also promulgating common sense reforms to address the ongoing delays that plague the current right-of-way permitting process.

¹ H. Schaefer et al., *Science* 10.1126/science.aad2705 (2016).

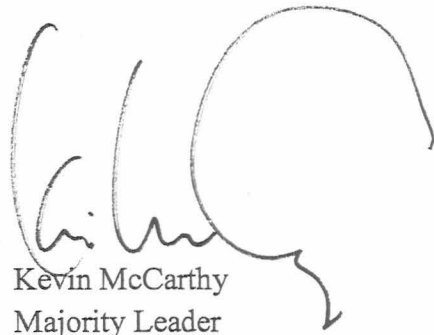
Secretary Jewell
July 27, 2016
Page 3

We appreciate your consideration of a better way to regulate responsible oil and natural gas exploration and production on federal lands and greatly look forward to your prompt reply to this letter that includes in detail what measures the Department is taking to address these right-of-way permitting backlogs.

Sincerely,



Rob Bishop
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee



Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader

Cc: The Hon. Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources

Doug Lamborn

Cynthia D. Lumma

Shirley

Bruce Flyn

Bruce Westerman

Ch. Hunt

Burt Cramer

Steve Scalise

John Culberson

Dr. Yang

Bob Goodlatte

Sal P. Lucas

Eric Schmitt

Mac Hest

John III

John Fluring

Paul A. Lyons, MD

Ben Bolin (TX-36)

Van Jenkins

Doug LaMotte

Randy H. Weber

Jim Biederstein

Earl L. Buddy Carter

Mimi A. [unclear]

Cost Hardy

Art [unclear]

David B. M. [unclear]

[unclear]

Mike Pompeo

Jeff [unclear]

Gregg Harper

Michael T. McCall

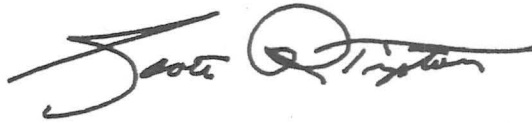
Derm E Thompson

 CA-05

Richard Hedge



Mylo Pompeo



Michael T. McCall

Lynn Jenkins

Bill Johnson

C.W. Branstetter

Randy Ann

Keith J Rothfus



Don Ruckelshaus

Blake Farentzoid

Mark Wayne Mullin

X. ~~King~~ King

Rae E. Jahn

J. M. C. S.

Rail R. Sabradon

Jody Slice

Dan A. Schuman

Larry Brest

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

963875

July 27, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

RECEIVED

2016 JUL 27 AM 11:20

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Earlier this year, Speaker Paul Ryan assembled several committee Chairmen in the U.S. House of Representatives to establish a Task Force aimed at reducing regulatory burdens to grow our economy. Of the principles outlined, we found that it is absolutely critical for the federal government to regulate smarter while also delivering affordable and reliable energy to American families and businesses. The findings of the Task Force's recently released white paper took months to assemble, and incorporated ideas from many Members of Congress, individuals, small business owners, and recognized regulatory experts.

We call your attention to the important findings of this white paper because the Department of the Interior has been a major offender of these principles – promulgating thousands of duplicative and burdensome rulemakings that do little to offer measurable impacts on the safety, security or economic well-being of our nation's citizens. Rather, many of the Department's regulations penalize and discourage entrepreneurship, overstep state jurisdiction, and drive up costs for developing energy resources on federal lands. The net effect of these burdensome rules is to make energy development on federal lands cost prohibitive and ultimately to penalize the citizens and economies of many states whose lands remain largely in federal control. A recent example of this is the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposed Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resources Conservation Rule (81 Fed. Reg. 6616) to further regulate methane emissions.

The BLM lacks Clean Air Act jurisdiction – a law that clearly charges the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in partnership with states, to regulate emissions. Moreover, according to the EPA’s own data, U.S. emissions from natural gas systems are lower than they were in 2005 – despite our nation’s vast increase in natural gas development over the same period. Similarly, a recent study conducted in part with scientists from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found that global methane increases since 2006 are likely from biogenic sources, rather than thermogenic emissions such as those associated with natural resource production - contradicting emissions inventories.¹

We are concerned that the BLM has rushed forward to finalize new methane emissions measures as a solution in search of a problem. Unfortunately, these regulations fail to address BLM’s ongoing permitting delays for natural gas gathering line rights-of-way. The best method to capture methane emissions from a well site is through the construction of natural gas gathering lines and pipelines. According to the BLM manual, BLM aims for a 60-day review of pending right-of-way permits so companies can construct pipelines. Yet, in data submitted by the BLM itself to the House Natural Resources Committee, not a single field office has been able to meet this target. In many cases, BLM is taking over six months to process a permit. This is unacceptable.

This rule adds another layer of duplicative federal regulation on top of already existing federal and state regulations. The rule oversteps BLM’s regulatory jurisdiction, and completely fails to address crucial failures by the BLM to capture methane emissions through common sense methods such as timely right-of-way permitting. For these reasons, we urge the agency to withdraw this misguided effort.

The development of oil and natural gas on federal lands remains a critical component of our nation’s renewed status as a global energy leader. Energy development is a generator of jobs and revenue that impact federal, state and local budgets. Most importantly, domestic energy production has helped to lower energy prices for American families, manufacturers, and businesses, which in turn have helped to further stabilize our economy. Rather than put all of these benefits in jeopardy, the BLM should continue to work collaboratively to drive more innovative technologies that build upon existing methane emissions decreases, while also promulgating common sense reforms to address the ongoing delays that plague the current right-of-way permitting process.

¹ H. Schaefer et al., *Science* 10.1126/science.aad2705 (2016).

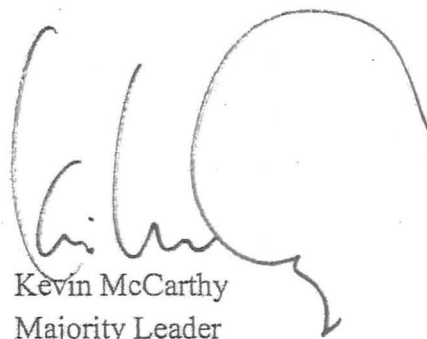
Secretary Jewell
July 27, 2016
Page 3

We appreciate your consideration of a better way to regulate responsible oil and natural gas exploration and production on federal lands and greatly look forward to your prompt reply to this letter that includes in detail what measures the Department is taking to address these right-of-way permitting backlogs.

Sincerely,



Rob Bishop
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee



Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader

Cc: The Hon. Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources

Doug Lambeon

Cynthia P. Lummis

Shirley

Bruce Florn

Bruce Westerman

Ch. Hunt

Burt Cramer

Steve Scalise

John Culberson

Dr. Yang

Bob Goodlatte

Sal P. Lujan

Ross Spitzer

Max F. Baucus

John F. Loefer

John Flaherty

Paul A. Lyons, MS

Ben Bolin (TX-36)

Van Jenkins

Doug LaMotte

Randy K. Weber

Jim Biederstein

Earl L. Buddy Carter

Minna J. [unclear]

Cost Hardy

Art [unclear]

David B. M. [unclear]

Tom [unclear]

My [unclear]

J.P. [unclear]

Gregg Harper

Michael [unclear]

Derm E Thompson

LA-05


Richard Hedge

Richard Hedge

Mary Tompa

Mary Tompa

Michael T. McLeod

Lynne Jenkins

Bill Johnson

C.W. Brantley

Randy Ann

Keith J Rothfus

OLL

Dan Ruckelshaus

Blake Farentz

Mark Wayne Miller

*. July 19

Ran E. Jahn

JMCS

Rail R. Sabradon

Jody Hice

Dan Ambrose

Larry Brest