

April 15, 2021

Secretary Deb Haaland

U.S. Department of the Interior

1049 C Street, NW

Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

On behalf of the 600,000 energy workers, manufacturers and innovators represented by the Energy Workforce & Technology Council, we respectfully submit important facts that affect our industry to be included in the Department of Interior's report on the Federal Oil & Gas forum. We share many of your goals expressed at the March 25th, 2021 Public Forum on Federal Oil & Gas, including reducing negative impacts disproportionately felt by local communities, strengthening the economy, and moving to a lower carbon future. The continuation of the ban on new leases will result in the opposite of these intended outcomes, we urge you to lift the ban on new leases so we can move forward to accomplish these shared goals.

We were disappointed that no state or local leaders were given a platform at the March 25th Public Forum. As you understand, these local leaders are best suited to illustrate how the leasing ban directly affects their communities. We have met with countless state and local leaders who represent the areas covering the affected Federal lands, and their collective concern is this leasing ban will deliver the opposite of its intended effect. The leasing ban will destroy local economies through job losses and lost revenue streams and will harm the local environment as cleaner natural gas production is halted and conservation funds are diminished. We respectfully ask that state and local leaders from New Mexico and other significantly affected states be included in future engagements on this important issue.

Continuing this ban through the entirety of President Biden's first term will result in catastrophic economic impacts to state and local communities, including a loss of \$8.3 billion in state revenue taxes, which will affect the ability to fund important local service positions such as firemen and teachers. The continuation of this ban will also result in the loss of nearly 58,700 manufacturing and wage earning jobs annually. These industry workers will miss out on over \$15 billion of income, at a time where every job is precious as we fight to recover from the economic downturn caused by COVID-19.

The continuation of the leasing ban will also raise carbon emissions and stifle funding for land and water conservation. Natural gas continues to replace dirtier forms of energy, and it is the primary reason the United States has reduced more greenhouse gas emissions than any other country in the last decade. Federal lands are responsible for 12% of natural gas production, as demand for baseload energy continues to rise, the leasing ban will force communities to turn back to dirtier forms of energy to supply the constantly rising demand for power. Additionally, \$8.8 billion in conservation funds supplied through the Great American Outdoors Act and The Land and Water Conservation Fund will disappear as these revenue streams are dependent on the contributions of a stable Federal oil and natural gas program.

Secretary Haaland, we urge you to consider these important facts in your ongoing review of the Federal Oil & Gas program and lift the ban on new oil and gas leases. A robust federal oil & gas program is vital to our shared mission of maintaining a strong workforce, strong economy, and sustainable environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Tarpley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tim Tarpley

Senior Vice President Government Affairs

Energy Workforce & Technology Council