

News Release



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IPAMS to Congress: 'America's Energy Supply Depends on Access to Federal Lands'

Executive Director tells Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming 'natural gas is key to America's energy challenges'

(DENVER)- The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States' (IPAMS) Executive Director Marc Smith today told members of Congress in testimony before the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming that natural gas will be an increasingly important energy source in a carbon-constrained world.

"This Congress could help put America on a path to greater energy independence and a sustainable energy future by lifting restrictions on OCS drilling and addressing the barriers that are limiting development of new supplies in the Intermountain West," Smith told Congress.

Smith asked members of the committee to consider the unintended consequences of policies that further restrict access to American public lands that hold the bridge to our energy future. "Natural gas doesn't compete with renewable energy; in fact it helps make the vision a reality. Greater energy production from intermittent sources of power like wind and solar are possible because natural gas electric generation is available to fill-in during the large gaps of time when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining. As the cleanest burning fossil fuel, natural gas will also play an increasingly important role in a carbon-constrained world as an essential part of any plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," Smith testified.

"Policies that intentionally place limits on the development of new supplies of natural gas from onshore and offshore federal lands are counterproductive to the goals of both energy independence and reducing the carbon intensity of our economy. It is reckless to promote plans that are designed to fail. If we increase demand for natural gas, we need corresponding policies that plan for the development of new supplies.

"Natural gas producers don't need special subsidies. They need access to the places where energy resources are found, and a predictable regulatory and tax structure in order to make long-term investment decisions that ensure uninterrupted supply," concluded Smith.

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Click here to read Smith's full testimony: <http://ipams.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/testimony.pdf>

About IPAMS

The 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

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environmentally responsible oil and natural gas development in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at www.ipams.org.