

News Release



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Natural Gas—Silent Partner to Renewable Energy

Placing more burdens on domestic natural gas producers will delay renewable energy future

(DENVER)- The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) today reminded Senator Obama and the delegates to the Democratic National Convention that policies calling for increased use of renewable energy such as wind and solar must be accompanied by policies that plan for increased development of domestic natural gas.

"Solar and wind facilities simply cannot exist without increased supplies of natural gas," said Marc Smith, IPAMS Executive Director. "As we welcome the Democratic delegates to Denver, we remind them that efforts to increase our reliance on wind and solar energy will require increased domestic natural gas supplies."

According to the Department of Energy, by 2030, 25% of our energy will come from natural gas (an increase of 5% from 2007), and about 8% will come from renewable energy sources. As the U.S. increases its reliance on solar and wind energy, more clean-burning natural gas will be needed to fill the gaps when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining. For example, with each kilowatt hour of wind power installed, there is a corresponding kilowatt hour of natural gas back-up capacity added.

"Natural gas producers are proud to be silent partners to renewable energy," said Smith. "As the delegates craft their party's platform and vision for the future this week, we hope they'll remember that policies creating a higher demand for natural gas while limiting the creation of new supplies are a recipe for disaster."

"Legislation that creates more bureaucratic delays and further limits access to federal lands where vast amounts of our energy resources are located will limit domestic natural gas supplies and keep wind and solar from becoming a viable energy sources," concluded Smith

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