

*Attachment 1*  
*2/19/16*

February 17, 2016

The Honorable Steve Bair  
Chairman – Natural Resources Committee  
Idaho State Capitol  
Boise, ID 83720

RE: Senate Bill 1339 – Oil & Gas Process Improvements

Dear Senator Bair and Committee:

I wish to provide support for Senate Bill 1339. The bill makes significant improvements to the state process such that, as a land owner, I can understand the process that would be required unlike now. More importantly, as a landowner with several wells already on my property, it gives the industry the necessary flexibility to do its work in a fashion that respects my farming and ranching operations.

The farming and ranching that I do in Payette County is in the same area production was first established. I have a good relationship with Alta Mesa. They work to cause as little impact to my farming and ranch as they can. As I understand the current process, it takes the industry about a year to get through the hearing process with the Oil and Gas Commission. The proposed bill would allow the same hearing to occur in just over 100 days. From my perspective, that allows me more control of when the industry does its work. When I have cattle grazing the ranch in the early spring, I ask industry to avoid working in that area. During the irrigating season, industry has to avoid the irrigated sections. Industry cannot plan more than a year in advance to avoid my concerns under the current process. The proposed bill would let industry meet my needs as a landowner, farmer and rancher.

Again, I would ask that you pass the bill and improve the process for all the stakeholders, including landowners, farmers and ranchers.

Sincerely,



Michael Simplot  
Payette Farms