

*Attachment 2
2/19/16*

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

7 February 2016

I wish to provide support for the Act Relating to the Regulation of Oil and Gas Extraction and Production; amending Sections 47-317, 47-318, 47-320 and 47-324, Idaho Code, to Provide Legislative Intent Regarding the Regulation of Oil and Gas Exploration and Production.

The proposed amendments provide a much clearer definition of the process involved in oil and gas exploration and production in Idaho. The act describes a workable process which will assist both developers of oil and gas in Idaho as well as better describe the regulatory authority and process required by the State of Idaho. The concept of placing more authority with the Idaho Department of Lands but leaving the oversight responsibility with the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission is a needed improvement. This gives that obligation to the agency (Idaho Department of Lands) which has the staff and capability to accept the accountability of the regulatory process that the act outlines. It provides substantial oversight by the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to maintain its responsibility but lacks the staff or financing to deal with day to day activities necessary to process the rules and regulations in a judicious manner.

To encourage the timely development of the oil and gas resource in the State of Idaho and protect the interest and concerns of Idaho, this workable set of guidelines is needed. The proposed amendments described in the act seem to address issues raised in the original act. Both the oil and gas industry and the Idaho State agencies responsible for administration of rules and regulations support the recommended amendments to make the process more transparent and better define the duties of all parties involved.

Respectfully Submitted,

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