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**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

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SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION  
OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 21, 2023

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The Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning  
Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Stone-Manning,

We write regarding the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) revisions to the agency's oil and gas leasing regulations published in the Federal Register on July 24, 2023 (88 FR 47562). Given the substantive changes being made to the regulations, we urge the BLM to extend the comment period by 60 days to allow for adequate time to receive input from impacted states, communities, and stakeholders.

Complying with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 and holding quarterly lease sales for energy development on federal lands for each State where eligible lands are available is of national importance. The BLM's failure to hold consistent sales in compliance with the law is felt strongly by local communities. Lease sales provide a major source of revenue to energy-producing states who use these revenues for public services, supporting everything from public schools to firefighters. Ensuring access to our valuable resources on public lands solidifies our nation's position as an energy leader, provides affordable energy for American citizens and frees our nation from dependence on foreign actors who have no concern for the best interests of America.

Despite a statutory requirement to hold quarterly onshore oil and gas lease sales in each eligible state, this administration has only held 12 onshore lease sales to date. In fact, the BLM under this administration has only leased roughly 200,000 acres bringing in roughly \$147 million in revenue for the taxpayers. For comparison, the Trump administration held 67 lease sales over the same period of time, leasing 3,136,120.6 acres and bringing in roughly \$1.7 *billion* in revenue for the taxpayers.

The BLM's lack of leasing is not only unacceptable, but also likely to have a devastating long-term impact on U.S. energy supply as producers run out of producible acreage, the impacts of which will endure for decades. By increasing fees, adding new restrictions and creating more uncertainty around leasing through these proposed changes to its leasing regulations, the BLM will further dissuade investment in domestic energy production on federal lands, jeopardizing our country's future economic and national security.

These proposed changes are critically important to energy-producing states across the country and the American economy as a whole. For these reasons, we urge you to extend the comment period by 60 days to give impacted communities and stakeholders adequate time to provide public comments to the BLM on the real-world impacts of the BLM's proposed rule.

Sincerely,



Harriet M. Hageman  
Member of Congress



Chairman Bruce Westerman  
Committee on Natural Resources



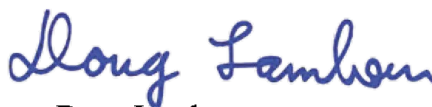
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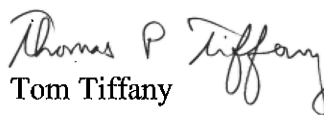
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