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NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPUBLICANS

CONGRESSMAN DOC HASTINGS, RANKING MEMBER

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Hastings Continues to Seek Answers from Secretary Salazar on Decision to Eliminate Profitable Government Program

President tells cabinet to save \$100 million, but Salazar ends RIK program that makes \$100 million

WASHINGTON, DC –House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Doc Hastings (WA-04) sent a [follow-up letter](#) to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar seeking answers as to why the Department decided to terminate the profitable royalty in-kind (RIK) program for collecting oil and gas royalties. A recent [Department of Interior report](#) showed that the program generated over \$106 million in benefits for the American taxpayer in 2008, raising the five-year total benefits from the program to more than \$256 million.

“Earlier this year, President Obama [directed](#) members of his cabinet to identify \$100 million in savings. Instead, Secretary Salazar went in the opposite direction and eliminated a program that generates over \$100 million in benefits to the American taxpayer,” said Ranking Member Hastings. *“As the President said, ‘\$100 million there, \$100 million here, pretty soon, even in Washington, it adds up to real money.’ I couldn’t agree more. That’s why, with our nation facing a \$1.4 trillion deficit, it is absurd that the Interior Department would proactively choose to end a program that actually makes the federal government money. Americans deserve answers.”*

Background

On October 2, 2009, Ranking Member Hastings sent a [letter](#) to Secretary Salazar requesting information on the economic impacts of eliminating the program. No response has been received.

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