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Chairman Hastings' Statement on the President's State of the Union Address

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings (WA-04) released the following statement regarding the President's State of the Union address:

"During tonight's State of the Union address, the President once again took the position of arguing for job creation and economic growth, while continuing to ignore the economic opportunities that exist through energy production on federal lands and the responsible management of our Nation's natural resources. Tonight's speech was further indication that during his second term, President Obama will ensure his Administration is more aggressive in its unilateral pursuit of new regulations and policies that will impede economic recovery. By circumventing Congress through administrative fiat, the Obama Administration has the ability to lock up large swaths of public land from multiple use economic activity, slow federal energy production even further, and impose burdensome new layers of red tape that will destroy job creation potential for millions of American's still looking for word.

"Last year, the President paid lip-service to Republican's call for an 'all-of-the-above' energy plan. With no tangible action on a true all-of-the-above and with the election behind him, President Obama has ditched the talking points [assuming he doesn't say all-of-the-above] and is once again back to promoting job-destroying policies to raise Americans' energy costs and pick energy winners and losers.

"The Obama Administration has closed off millions of acres of public lands and waters to American energy production, offered the fewest offshore lease sales in the history of the program, and caused energy production on federal lands to significantly decline. It's simply difficult to take President Obama seriously when he talks about job creation while flatly ignoring one of America's largest potentials for job creation."

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