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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

Opening Statement of
Congressman Mike Coffman
At the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources
Legislative Hearing on
H.R. 4381, H.R. 4382, H.R. 4383, H.R. 4402, H.R. 1192 and H.R. 2176
Thursday, April 26, 2012

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I would like to thank Chairman Lamborn for this opportunity to expand onshore American energy production on federal public lands. These bills today remove obstacles to achieving greater American energy production by providing more certainty and clarity to the system.

In particular, my bill, H.R. 4382, will ensure that federal oil and natural gas lease sales occur, eliminate redundant bureaucracy and provide necessary lease certainty for industry so production is made easier.

Added production will not only create jobs but it will also increase the overall supply of oil on the market to help meet the growing global demand and ease gas prices at the pump. Although the President believes this simple principle of economics does not apply to the oil and gas markets, my constituents know differently.

Right now in Colorado, the average price for a gallon of gas is \$3.83 cents. This higher fuel costs negatively affects every sector of the economy as well as the already strained budgets of Colorado's families.

My colleagues and I in this Committee are committed to fostering greater domestic energy production and helping to solve the problem that high gas prices have on the overall economy.

With that, I want to thank the witnesses for their time and I look forward to listening to their testimony.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back.