

Congressional Western Caucus

Testimony Summary

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Jonah Energy is an oil and gas exploration and development company operating in the Jonah and Pinedale Fields of Wyoming and focus on producing natural gas in an environmentally responsible manner.

Jonah Energy operates almost exclusively on federal surface and mineral lands in Wyoming.

The natural gas supply chain is critical to support our future energy demands. However, it must be produced and delivered in a responsible way. Consumers are demanding cleaner energy and we have responded. Natural gas is also affordable, a foundation of Wyoming's economy and supports our very way of life.

Wyoming has led the nation in environmental protections while balancing the need to provide clean, sustainable energy development for well over a decade.

Working with Wyoming to review and develop common sense policies should be a priority for the Biden Administration.

Our economy and conservation efforts large and small are made possible by the 28,000 men and women of Wyoming's oil and gas industry that generated \$1.7 Billion in tax revenue for Wyoming in 2020.

A great example is the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust. A state funded trust of \$115 million that has generated about \$750 million in conservation project value. Made possible by tax contributions from Wyoming's mineral industry.

Wyoming is also the 2nd largest state generating mineral revenue for the federal government. In CY 2020 Wyoming generated \$815,722,358 in royalty, bonus and rent payments.

Since 2014, Jonah alone has contributed nearly \$790 million in state and federal taxes and royalties.

Natural gas will be a large and growing part of our energy market for the foreseeable future. In their recently released Annual Energy Outlook 2021, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) expects U.S. energy consumption from natural gas to increase 37% between 2020 and 2050.

As consumption and production is expected to grow, so does the need for the cleanest supply of natural gas to meet customer expectations and climate goals. Federal land production, through regulatory and voluntary measures, is demonstrably cleaner and produces far less emissions.

Reducing or eliminating oil and gas production and leasing on federal lands could be economically devastating and counter to the goal of tackling climate issues.

Jonah has one of the best track records of any operator in the US when it comes to reducing emissions, protecting habitat and wildlife and exceeding what is required by regulation. We do all of this on Federal lands.

We want to continue our efforts for the benefit of all of stakeholders.

If policy decisions prohibit or constrain us from working with the BLM to efficiently acquire leases, permits or other requirements, we are unable to adapt operations to meet market demands.

The uncertainties introduced into our business are an extreme burden. We have tuned our operations to adhere to layers of regulations, but we've been able to do so because we understand expectations and work to meet and exceed them.

It is counter to climate goals and BLM's multiple use and sustained yield mission to have Jonah and other operators on federal lands bear added burden. We are among the most responsible operators in the industry and we have the data to prove it.

We strongly recommend a truly collaborative approach to any regulatory changes include Wyoming and responsible operators as part of the solution. We have demonstrated through issues such as Sage Grouse management, emission reductions and wildlife corridors that the best solutions are born locally.

Regulations should also incentivize operators who strive to improve using new technology, recognize and support different operations across the country and have a consistent enforcement mechanism.

Jonah's work, and similar efforts by other producers who take this challenge seriously, will result in a differentiated gas marketplace for consumers.

Furthermore, a market for differentiated, low-emission American natural gas will also support global climate goals through its global export as liquified natural gas. We have an opportunity to lead in providing LNG worldwide.

We look forward to working with congress and the Biden administration to ensure responsible development of our federal mineral resources continues with shared goals of strengthening our economy and reducing our impacts.
