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

December 5, 2013

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Dear Interested Helium Party,

As you know, Congress has passed, and the President has signed H.R. 527, "The Helium Stewardship Act" (P.L. 113-40). This bi-partisan law will reform and close operations at Federal Helium Reserve over the remainder of this next decade. While this action was necessary to preserve the supply of helium flowing from the Federal Helium Reserve, the bill does not provide for the production of additional domestic helium. Next year, the House Natural Resources Committee will turn our attention to promoting a longer term solution to securing our nation's helium supplies beyond the life of the reserve by growing and expanding our domestic helium production.

The first hearing on this issue was held by the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources on July 11, 2013, where we heard testimony and received many ideas. However, as we begin the process of drafting new legislation, we would like to again reach out to all interested parties and individuals who assisted us throughout the process of the passage of the Helium Stewardship Act for additional thoughts.

Our overarching goal is to secure, streamline and improve domestic helium production on federal land. Specifically we are looking for thoughts and guidance on the following topics:

- Changes to the Mineral Leasing Act to make helium a leasable mineral on federal lands, with an analysis of both the impacts to helium production and conflicts or challenges created by such an action;
- Reforming other areas of law to change the authority or requirements of the Secretary with regards to helium;
- Administrative or regulatory hurdles that exist that currently inhibit production of helium on federal land;

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- General thoughts and ideas on ways to expand helium production on federal land including potential;
 - Adjustments to the current royalty rate for helium production;
 - Streamlining permitting of helium projects on federal lands ;
 - The potential use of categorical exclusions to expedite helium projects on federal lands from the retargeting of gas production zones; and
- Any other changes to increase domestic production of helium or address the administration of helium supplies.

As we prepare to begin the process, we look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions and working together to create jobs and secure America's domestic helium supply.

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources



Doug Lamborn
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral
Resources