



The Honorable Deborah Haaland
Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning
Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland and Director Stone-Manning:

On behalf of the thousands of people who work in the natural gas and oil industry in Wyoming; the hundreds of thousands of people in Wyoming that rely on the industry's vibrancy; and the millions of people in the United States concerned about rising fuel prices; we write you today to request that necessary permits for pending production of oil and natural gas continue to flow in the event of a government shutdown.

The Petroleum Association of Wyoming (PAW) represents companies involved in all aspects of responsible oil and natural gas development in Wyoming, including upstream production, oilfield services, midstream processing, pipeline transportation and essential work such as legal services, accounting, consulting and more. Collectively, the natural gas and oil industry provided \$2.7 billion in tax revenue to the State of Wyoming, with over \$1.3 billion directed towards Wyoming's K-12 school children. The industry is responsible for over \$8 billion in state GDP and careers for more than 19,000 men and women.

As the nation's second highest producer of crude oil on federal lands, Wyoming plays an important role in ensuring that the nation produces sufficient quantities of crude oil to offset the decisions of foreign cartels and the impacts of supply crunches in the oil market. Americans face increasing costs of fuel for transportation, home heating and cooking in response to limited global supply and U.S. government policies. It is critically important to ensure that maximum amounts of domestic crude oil are produced and processed even during political gridlock resulting in a government shutdown.

Given that the Bureau of Land Management's federal mineral program is the second largest source of revenue to the federal government, the program more than covers the costs associated with staffing and resources necessary to approve permits. The program can operate self-sufficiently, and did so during the last shutdown in 2019 to the great benefit of the American people and the State of Wyoming. The program should be allowed to do so again in the event of a shutdown this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pete Obermueller", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Pete Obermueller
President

Petroleum Association of Wyoming