



**WYOMING HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES**

January 11, 2008

Bureau of Land Management  
 Pinedale Field Office  
 PAPA RDSEIS Project Manager  
 1625 West Pine Street  
 PO Box 768  
 Pinedale, WY 82941  
 E-mail: [WYMail\\_PAPA\\_YRA@blm.gov](mailto:WYMail_PAPA_YRA@blm.gov)

RE: Support for Alternative D – Year-Round Access for  
 Continued Development on the Pinedale Anticline

Dear Project Manager,

I strongly support providing year-round access in order to conduct year-round development of valuable domestic natural gas in Wyoming's Pinedale Anticline Project Area with proper mitigation.

Allowing year-round access to these resources with appropriate mitigation will improve energy security, diversify supply, enhance economic development, and generate local, state, and federal revenue.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Pinedale Anticline is the second largest gas field in the United States and has enough natural gas to supply 10 million homes annually for more than 30 years. Consumers, industry, and businesses are struggling with rising energy prices, which makes safe, environmentally responsible access to natural resources crucial to our economy's health.

Natural gas development in Pinedale will have a positive impact on the local and regional economy and spur strong economic growth by creating a year-round workforce, providing a significant tax source for local communities, and supporting Wyoming's business community. According to the BLM, the estimated royalties of the area's natural gas reserves are \$16 billion, half of which would go to the State of Wyoming and the other half to the federal government.

Mitigation is a critical component of providing year-round access. Today's technology allows this proposed year-round development to be conducted in an environmentally responsible manner. Under the operators' plan, roughly 92 percent of the Anticline will be left undisturbed by natural gas development.

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The Pinedale operators have offered mitigation commitments that will responsibly balance resource development and the environment. The primary emphasis of these commitments is on avoidance of impacts and on-site mitigation of any unavoidable impact. In addition, the operators have committed to off-site mitigation. These commitments include use of a full-field Liquids Gathering system and use advanced rig engine emission reduction technology to protect air quality. A Mitigation and Monitoring Fund would be established to address mitigations to minimize impacts from energy development. Ten-year planning and annual meetings with BLM and appropriate state agencies will allow for proper community planning. The net costs to operators for implementing these measures will exceed \$1 billion.

These commitments will balance resources and benefit the community while addressing the potential impacts identified in RDSEIS. I support its conclusion that with these components, all of the acreage included in year-round access areas can be developed while protecting the environment, benefiting local communities and advancing other economic interests.

Sincerely,

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Representative Lorraine Quarberg