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Utah State Legislature

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January 25, 2008

Bureau of Land Management
Pinedale Field Office
PAPA RDSEIS Project Manager
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Pinedale, WY 82941
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2008 JAN 30 PM 3:54

PHOTOXIDE UNIT

RE: Support Operators' Long-Term Management Plan for Year-Round Access on the Pinedale Anticline

Dear Project Manager:

We're writing on behalf of Utah energy consumers to urge you to approve the Questar, Shell and Ultra - proposed natural gas development plan for the Pinedale Anticline.

Natural gas prices have more than doubled over the past five years, hurting the more than 850,000 Utah homes and businesses that depend on natural gas for heat and fuel, a large portion of which flows into our state from gas fields on public lands in Wyoming.

This supply problem is not the result of a shortage of natural gas. This region is blessed with enormous untapped natural gas resources, much of that on public lands managed by the BLM, including the Pinedale Anticline. Rather, the problem is one of balancing this region's need for clean-burning natural gas with our concerns about the impact of natural gas development.

That's why we support the operator proposal -- it deserves to be embraced as a blueprint for responsible development on BLM lands. If approved, the operator plan will eliminate about 100 well pads, dramatically reducing habitat loss compared to the status quo. It cuts air emissions by 80% from current levels. It generates \$16 billion in royalties -- about \$8 billion of which goes to the State of Wyoming, and the rest to taxpayers. It generates stable jobs and eliminates the boom-bust cycles caused by winter drilling restrictions.

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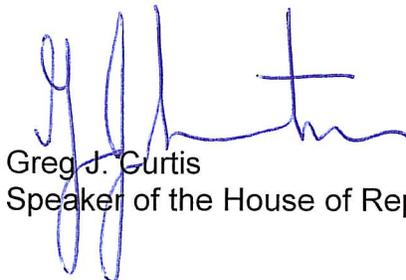
What's more, most of the natural gas used in Utah and elsewhere in this region is for winter heating. Winter drilling restrictions reduce the supply of natural gas just when we need it most – driving up prices.

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The Pinedale Anticline is now the second-largest natural gas field in the U.S. With natural gas prices at near-record levels, the time for responsible development of this vast source of our most environmentally benign fuel has come. The operators have put forward a plan that is far superior to the status quo. The BLM should embrace their plan by approving it expeditiously.

Sincerely,


John L. Valentine
President of the Senate


Greg J. Curtis
Speaker of the House of Representatives

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