



September 18, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
The Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States Capitol, H-232
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of our 400 member companies engaged in all aspects of environmentally responsible oil and natural gas development in the West, Western Energy Alliance thanks you for your continued support of domestic energy development.

Western Energy Alliance supports H.R. 3409 the *Coal Miner Employment and Domestic Energy Infrastructure Protection Act*. Several aspects of this package of bills are particularly important for increasing American production of the oil and natural gas that powers our economy and creates hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Preventing EPA from using the Clean Air Act (CAA) to impose costly greenhouse gas regulations is necessary to ensure rational energy policies and American energy security. Rather than command-and-control EPA regulations that are overly intrusive, inefficient, and costly, increased natural gas development offers a much more meaningful way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Private-sector investment and technical innovation have unlocked abundant domestic natural gas supplies and dramatically increased natural gas electricity generation. Because the United States has chosen a market-based approach rather than command-and-control policies, we are the only major developed nation that has significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

The TRAIN Act's common-sense measures to analyze the cumulative economic impact of environmental regulations are also significant for Western Energy Alliance. Oil and natural gas companies have been bombarded with new regulations over the last several years that are poorly constructed and lack proper justification. Often the excessive red tape provides little environmental benefit, especially when compared to the loss of productive economic capacity and jobs these regulations entail. By understanding how new regulations affect the American economy, we can better balance the costs of regulation with the benefits.

The provisions to amend the Clean Water Act (CWA) in order to restore the balance between states and the federal government in regulating the nation's waters are very welcome. Western Energy Alliance strongly supports delegation of regulatory authority for

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the CWA, CAA, and other federal laws to the states. States are better able to ensure compliance and protect their air and water than a one-size-fits-all federal approach.

Thank you for this crucial legislation. Western Energy Alliance is ready to help ensure that H.R. 3409 becomes law. Please let us know how we can be of assistance in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Sgamma', with a horizontal line underneath.

Kathleen M. Sgamma
Vice President of Government & Public Affairs