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The Honorable Michael Enzi
U.S. Senate
379A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cory Gardner
U.S. House of Representatives
213 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Enzi and Representative Gardner:

On behalf of the American Petroleum Institute, I write to express our support for common-sense measures to conserve and protect the greater sage grouse and your companion legislation, the Sage Grouse Protection and Conservation Act (S. 2394 and H.R. 4716). Allowing states to develop and implement a conservation management plan will further enhance sage grouse populations because it puts the states in the driver's seat to determine what's best for the species based on state-specific data and experience.

For decades, America's oil and natural gas industry has developed energy resources in the West in a safe and environmentally responsible way while protecting and conserving greater sage grouse and its habitat. Unfortunately, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) continues to be used as a means to prohibiting or ending energy production in the United States West where shale energy production and natural gas production from tight sandstones together have helped the U.S. become a global energy-leader. According to the research firm IHS Global Insight, the renaissance in energy production from shale and tight sand formations has created billions of dollars in additional revenues for federal, state and local governments, helped American consumers save \$1,200 annually per household, and supported more than 2.1 million jobs in 2012. These benefits are being realized in the states where the listing of the greater sage grouse could halt the economic jolt and lifeline that energy development has brought to these Western states.

Your legislation is important because it empowers each of the states affected by a potential ESA listing of the greater sage grouse to pursue a science-based adaptive management approach tailored to local range, habitat and climate characteristics to guide the state's conservation of the greater sage grouse

rather than a one-size-fits-all federal program. Active consultation between states and federal agencies will assure an effective approach to guide conservation of the sage grouse and its habitat.

Continued access to conventional and unconventional oil and natural gas resources on public, private, and state lands remains an essential economic driver to the West. The oil and natural gas industry strongly supports reasonable measures to conserve the greater sage grouse and allowing the states to put in place federally-approved management plans to forward that goal. Your continued leadership on this issue will be important to ensure these positive economic impacts continue into the future.

Please contact me if we can be of any assistance with your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Erik Milito', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Erik Milito