



The Honorable Cory Gardner
213 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2014

Dear Congressman Gardner,

The Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), representing thousands of independent oil and natural gas explorers and producers, as well as the service and supply industries that support their efforts, would like to offer our full support of your bill, HR 4716 The Sage Grouse Protection and Conservation Act.

Independent producers develop 95 percent of American oil and natural gas wells, produce 54 percent of American oil and produce 85 percent of American natural gas. A threatened or endangered species listing for the Sage Grouse or Gunnison Sage Grouse under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) would drastically change activities for our member companies on federal and private lands in the affected areas. To this end, HR 4716 details a reasoned undertaking of reform to preserve conservation without prohibiting development.

IPAA supports increased flexibility and equipping states to tailor regulations to their own unique set of characteristics. With eleven Western states affected, each state is required to work cooperatively with the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture to develop and implement a plan that works for them. A one-size-fits-all approach does not allow for any case-by-case fluctuation and IPAA believes that the states, in cooperation with federal agencies, are best suited to make individualized habitat decisions. This legislation is a balance between conservation of the species habitat and responsible economic development.

IPAA commends you for your leadership on this issue, as well as the Western Grouse Coalition who have worked to engage all the stakeholders in this commonsense approach.

IPAA strongly supports HR 4716 The Sage Grouse Protection and Conservation Act.

Sincerely,



Barry Russell
President
IPAA