

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso:

On behalf of the 400 members of the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA), we wanted to thank you for holding today's hearing on the Department of the Interior's onshore oil and gas leasing programs and urge the Committee to support the responsible multiple use of public lands.

NSSGA represents aggregates and industrial sand producers and those who manufacture equipment and services that support the construction industry. Our members are essential to the work of this country, and we represent more than 90 percent of the crushed stone and 70 percent of the sand and gravel consumed annually in the United States. Our members employ more than 100,000 hard-working men and women who are responsible for the essential raw materials found in every home, building, road, bridge, and public works project.

Aggregates and industrial sand producers are proud to supply the materials necessary for producing and delivering all forms of energy, including oil and gas, to every community. Our nation's energy independence, which is essential to economic growth and national security, could not be obtained without the products NSSGA members mine, process, or manufacture. The NSSGA's Industrial Sand Division (ISD) is a particularly essential part of U.S. oil and gas development. NSSGA's ISD members provide industrial sands that are used as proppants, commonly referred to as "frac sand", which are essential to the extraction of oil and gas from shale. The growth in U.S. oil and gas production over the last decade, which has allowed the U.S. to achieve *energy independence*, would not have occurred without industrial sand and the contribution of the companies that provide it.

We are concerned with the impact of moratoriums and delays surrounding the ability to obtain new oil and gas leases and urge the Department to continue its critical function to allow for the responsible production of oil and gas on federal lands. In 2019, production from on shore federal lands accounted for 9 percent of oil and 9 percent of natural gas produced in the U.S. Importantly, the production of oil from on shore federal lands increased 207 percent from 2010 to 2019, and the share of U.S. oil production from on shore federal lands increased from 6 percent of total production in 2010 to the 9 percent noted. If a permanent moratorium on oil and gas leases continues, it will reduce the production of domestic oil and gas; the increased production of cheaper and reliably available domestic oil and gas has reduced American dependence on foreign suppliers, created American jobs and helped spark the "on shoring" of manufacturing that relies on natural gas and NGLs as raw materials. A permanent moratorium on federal oil and gas leases is [expected](#) to cost billions in economic output and nearly 58,700 jobs.

This also extends to the infrastructure needed to transport and deliver energy to American homes, schools, and businesses. NSSGA is opposed to new requirements and delays that unnecessarily prohibit the development of responsible new infrastructure, like pipelines, rail, processing and refining facilities and other energy critical infrastructure that is essential to the livelihoods of all Americans. Our members believe a transition to a cleaner energy future must come through innovation, not elimination.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of our member's views and we appreciate your leadership to address these critical issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael W. Johnson
President and CEO
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association