



Michael J. Sommers
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August 6, 2018

The Honorable Ryan K. Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The American Petroleum Institute and its members are committed to the continued development of U.S. oil and natural gas resources and in working with the U.S. Department of the Interior to produce the energy Americans rely upon every day from federally managed lands. We appreciate and support efforts to modernize and reorganize the Department in order to improve governance, streamline permitting and approvals, and improve coordination of government services so that unnecessary barriers to oil and natural gas development are minimized and eliminated.

Onshore and offshore federal lands are critical to the continued energy and national security of the nation, and the success of the U.S. oil and gas industry over the past several years clearly demonstrates our ability to safely and responsibly deliver affordable energy and the associated capital investments, good-paying jobs, and environmental successes that flow from oil and gas projects. Federal lands hold great promise for continued job growth and government revenue generation, and the Department's reorganization should be looked upon as an opportunity to pave the way for expanded, long term and environmentally responsible resource development.

Innovation has led the U.S. to new heights as the world's leading oil and natural gas producer. Similarly, this reorganization can lead Interior to greater management of our parks, trails, habitats and resources for generations to come. The oil and natural gas industry stands ready to engage as Interior moves forward with its plans for reorganization. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Sommers", written in a cursive style.

Michael J. Sommers
President and CEO
American Petroleum Institute