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Earl Pomeroy
Congress of the United States
North Dakota

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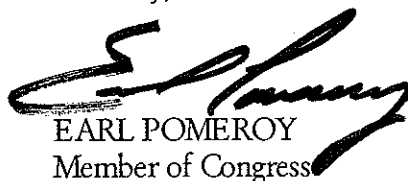
Dear Director Abbey:

I am writing to express my concern with the recently delayed oil and gas lease sales in North Dakota, Montana and South Dakota. Given the United States current dependence on foreign oil I believe that we must move to further develop our domestic resources like our oil and gas reserves on public lands.

The delay in the 2010 lease sales was prompted by a protest on the same basis as a lawsuit over lease sales in Montana in 2008, which the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) settled by agreeing to conduct further environmental assessment. I understand the concerns of the BLM over the potential impact that lawsuits may have on future lease sales and I am encouraged by statements from the BLM that it intends to complete corrective environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by early fall. I would urge the BLM to complete this analysis as quickly as possible so that lease sales may occur this year and there be as little impact on production activities as possible. Many of the areas that will be affected by the delayed lease sales are in the Bakken Formation in Western North Dakota and Eastern Montana. This formation represents the largest onshore oil play in the continental United States and is critical to America's energy security and the economy of the region.

North Dakota continues to play a significant role in meeting America's energy needs and stands poised to contribute even more with the expansion of oil development in the Bakken. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to a quick resolution so that oil and gas development on BLM land can continue.

Sincerely,


EARL POMEROY
Member of Congress

CC: Secretary Ken Salazar, Department of the Interior
CC: Gene Terland, State Director, Montana/Dakotas BLM