

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000  
202/463-5310

February 27, 2013

The Honorable David Vitter  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Vitter and Representative Bishop:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, strongly supports the "Energy Production and Project Delivery Act of 2013," which would help meet the growing demand for energy in the United States by removing barriers that delay the regulatory approval process for new energy projects.

The delay of energy projects is a major problem. The Chamber's *Project No Project* initiative ([www.projectnoproject.com](http://www.projectnoproject.com)) has identified 351 proposed renewable, coal, natural gas, nuclear, and transmission projects in 49 states that have been delayed or cancelled due to "Not in My Back Yard" (NIMBY) activism, a broken permitting process, and a calcified regulatory system that allows for limitless lawsuits by opponents of development. In 2011, the Chamber released a first-of-its-kind economic study concluding that the construction phase alone for these 351 projects could yield \$1.1 trillion in GDP and 1.9 million jobs annually. Construction of only the largest project in each state would generate \$449 billion in economic value and 572,000 annual jobs.

The Energy Production and Project Delivery Act of 2013 would help eliminate many of the typical *Project No Project* barriers by removing the red tape that stands in the way of progress. This bill would streamline permits, stop Executive Branch inaction on oil and gas leases, cut back on activists' abusive lawsuits to stop projects, and require federal agencies to consider economic and employment impacts when they make regulations. The Chamber strongly supports the Energy Production and Project Delivery Act of 2013 and stands ready to work with you to improve the nation's economy by increasing domestic energy production.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten



February 26, 2013

The Honorable David Vitter  
U.S. Senate  
516 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
U.S. House of Representatives  
123 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Vitter and Congressman Bishop:

On behalf of the Western Business Roundtable and its multi-sector membership, I am writing to express our appreciation to both of you for your tireless leadership in support of a strong domestic energy policy based on the responsible use of the nation's full range of energy resources.

We wish to thank you for continuing to bring attention to the issue through reintroduction, in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, of legislation to remove a number of regulatory hurdles that currently hamstring achievement of a true "all of the above" national energy policy. The "*Energy Production and Project Delivery Act of 2013*" is an important piece of legislation that addresses a number of regulatory problems and we are pleased to endorse it.

As you know, the Roundtable has long advocated for a strong domestic energy policy built on three major tenants: increased domestic energy production from virtually all energy resources and technologies; the incentivizing of the development/deployment of next generation energy technologies; and greater conservation and increased efficiency. All three legs of the stool are necessary for a viable long-term energy policy. In turn, a stable and predictable domestic energy policy is a fundamental building block for any successful effort to jump-start our still anemic national economy and stimulate new job creation.

Unfortunately, domestic energy production of all kinds is increasingly being stymied by expansive, heavy-handed federal regulatory policies.

The "*Energy Production and Project Delivery Act of 2013*" would take important steps to cut through this regulatory morass. Among other things, the bill would: streamline both onshore and offshore energy leasing and permitting processes; approve the critically important Keystone XL pipeline; address litigation abuse; constrain regulatory overreach in the name of species'

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The opinions expressed in this letter represent the views of a majority of Roundtable Members, but not necessarily all of our members.

protection; and force agencies to consider economic and employment impacts as part of their regulatory decision-making.

We also very much appreciate your attention to the growing problem of regulatory over-reach through unilateral Executive Branch implementation of climate regulations. Provisions included in your bill address several key areas of concern (the Administration's pending greenhouse gas regulations under the Clean Air Act, and its use of climate change as a justification for the triggering of the Endangered Species Act).

Unfortunately, the problem is even more expansive: from the Council on Environmental Quality, to the Environmental Protection Agency, to the Department of Interior / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service / Bureau of Land Management / U.S. Geological Survey, to the U.S. Department of Agriculture / U.S. Forest Service Forest, etc., the Obama Administration is using climate change as the justification for a broad expansion of regulatory authority across the federal government. The result is a burgeoning set of regulatory hurdles energy and natural resource producers must navigate.<sup>1</sup> As your legislation moves through the process, we strongly urge you to include language to constrain this government-wide, unilateral institution of federal climate policy.

Failure to responsibly develop America's full energy potential will only increase our dependence on foreign energy sources. That, in turn, will drive up energy prices for consumers, destroy good-paying jobs and fundamentally weaken our ability to assure the nation's long-term energy and economic security.

Thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of policies that strengthen our nation's economic, energy and minerals' security.

Sincerely,



Holly Propst  
Executive Director/General Counsel  
Western Business Roundtable

*The Western Business Roundtable is a broad-based coalition of companies doing business in the Western United States. Our members are engaged in a wide array of enterprises, including: manufacturing; retail energy sales; mining; electric power generation and transmission; energy infrastructure development; oil and gas exploration development, transportation and distribution; and energy services. We work to defend the interests of the West and support policies that encourage economic growth and opportunity, freedom of enterprise and a common-sense, balanced approach to conservation and environmental stewardship.*

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<sup>1</sup> Details on the Obama Administration's government-wide climate initiatives can be accessed here: <http://sustainability.performance.gov/>.



# AMERICANS FOR LIMITED GOVERNMENT

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February 26, 2013

Senator David Vitter  
United State Senate  
516 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Rob Bishop  
U.S. House of Representatives  
123 Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Vitter and Congressman Bishop:

Americans for Limited Government strongly supports the Energy Production and Project Delivery Act of 2013 for its effort to boost America's energy production, provide more American jobs and reduce the massive federal deficit.

As the nation is learning by the ongoing turmoil in the Middle East, the U.S. cannot afford to be dependent on foreign sources of fuel. The reality is that we have enough energy and other resources in America to provide for our own needs as a nation, but federal restrictions are in the way. The leadership of this country has proved that spending taxpayer dollars to try and create jobs and prop up green energy initiatives is unsuccessful. It is time to try something new and tap into the abundance of resources housed in the United States.

A rapid expansion of the nation's natural resources production would create tens of thousands of jobs and investment opportunities, increase revenues through economic growth and reduce our dependency on foreign natural resources.

ALG applauds your legislation for its ability to expedite the Keystone XL Pipeline and open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). We also support the restrictions it places on government agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) forcing it to be more fiscally and scientifically accountable with its laws and regulations.

As oil prices continue to rise and as unemployment rates remain high, America needs a fiscally responsible and sustainable path to energy freedom and job creation.

We encourage your colleagues to support your legislation and look forward to working with you to create an energy-independent and prosperous America.

Sincerely,



William A. Wilson, President



## AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

26 February 2013

Dear Senators and Representatives,

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) and millions of taxpayers nationwide, I urge you to support Senator David Vitter (R-La.) and Representative Rob Bishop's (Utah) Energy Production and Project Delivery Act of 2013. Facilitating economic activity and energy production, this legislation could spur \$8.2 trillion in GDP growth and create 1.2 million domestic jobs over the next 30 years.

The Energy Production and Project Delivery Act of 2013 will alleviate American job creators from some of government's most cumbersome regulations. Businesses have increasingly found themselves hamstrung due to the efforts of unelected federal bureaucrats whose ideological attachment to the agenda of "Big Green" government has found expression through a litany of oppressive and unnecessary regulations. This is precisely what Sen. Vitter and Rep. Bishop intend to fix.

Their bill operates on several levels. First and foremost, it puts a leash on the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal departments, which have been gradually usurping Congressional authority by unilaterally determining the boundaries of their own jurisdiction. This legislation would prevent the EPA from regulating CO2 under the Clean Air Act until China, India, and Russia implement similar economically damaging policies.

The Energy Production and Project Delivery Act of 2013 would promote energy independence by directing the Secretary of the Interior to open up Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) planning areas to commercial interests. Additionally, this legislation would force the EPA and Department of the Interior to expedite the judicial review process for energy projects. Currently, there are more than 300 projects tied-up in environmental lawsuits.

Sen. Vitter and Rep. Bishop seek to restore the role of the U.S. Congress in the development and implementation the nation's energy, economic, and environmental policy. His bill is not a referendum on climate change or greenhouse gases but rather on who will determine our country's energy policy – elected Representatives or unaccountable political appointees.

In the interest of preserving America's economic freedom and the prosperity of its citizens, please join me in supporting Sen. Vitter and Rep. Bishop's Energy Production and Project Delivery Act of 2013.

Onward,

Grover G. Norquist

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## AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY®

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February 26, 2013

Dear Senator Vitter:

On behalf of more than two million Americans for Prosperity activists in all 50 states, I applaud you for introducing the Energy Production and Project Delivery Act of 2013. Our economy is still recovering, and this bill will give American companies the opportunity to create jobs and boost our economy.

During the President's first term, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and the administration have burdened energy companies and directly blocked growth with obstructionist judicial actions. Salazar was even held in contempt of court for his actions blocking permits in the Gulf of Mexico. This administration has crippled one of the nation's most important industries, resulting in thousands of lost jobs, ballooning gas prices, and an unnecessary delay in accessing domestic resources. The administration must not be allowed to stand in the way of our economic recovery.

Your bill would both prevent the administration from continuing to stifle energy markets and it would encourage our recovery. By directing the Secretary of the Interior to begin lease sales in the OCS and ANWR, this bill opens up our country's natural resources for exploration and development. This will create an estimated 1.2 million jobs and trillions of dollars in sustained economic growth and federal revenues. The Act also directs the government to administer these sales in an environmentally conscious way.

The administration must also not be allowed to stifle economic growth through excessive regulation. With that in mind, your legislation rightly reins in federal agencies that promote an activist agenda through distortions of existing statutes. Thus, climate regulation under the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Air Act will be expressly prohibited. The Act also calls on the EPA to respect its existing statutory obligations by insisting on economic impact analysis of new rules under the Clean Air Act, a duty it has been ignoring.

AFP is proud to support your legislation. I urge your colleagues to support its passage and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

James Valvo  
Director of Policy  
Americans for Prosperity

*Americans for Prosperity® (AFP) is a nationwide organization of citizen leaders committed to advancing every individual's right to economic freedom and opportunity. AFP believes reducing the size and scope of government is the best safeguard to ensuring individual productivity and prosperity for all Americans. AFP educates and engages citizens in support of restraining state and federal government growth and returning government to its constitutional limits. AFP has more than 2 million members, including members in all 50 states, and 36 state chapters and affiliates. More than 90,000 Americans in all 50 states have made a financial investment in AFP or AFP Foundation. For more information, visit [www.americansforprosperity.org](http://www.americansforprosperity.org). Americans for Prosperity does not support or oppose candidates for public office.*

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