



Oppose H.R. 6009, Restoring American Energy Dominance Act

Sponsored by Representative Lauren Boebert (R-CO-3)

The Restoring American Energy Dominance Act would require the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to withdraw its proposed oil and gas lease rule and prevent the Department of the Interior (DOI) from offering a substantially similar rule in the future.

First, this legislation circumvents and undermines the administrative process, effectively prohibiting the agency from doing its job to oversee the federal leasing program, while ignoring significant public input. **During the rule's 60-day comment period, over 260,000 Americans submitted public comments for the record – over [99 percent](#) of which were supportive of the rule.**

Second, H.R. 6009 halts long overdue updates – enacted via the Inflation Reduction Act – to the federal onshore oil and gas leasing program that protects taxpayers, public lands, and the wildlife and communities who rely on them. The onshore oil and gas leasing rule implements several important, and duly enacted, reforms that ensure the system works for all people – not just the oil and gas industry – including:

- Increasing the royalty rate for producing oil and gas on federal public lands;
- Realigning rents and fees to account for decades of inflation;
- Reducing speculation by ending non-competitive leasing and implementing a new nomination fee.

Third, if passed, H.R. 6009 would halt other updates that are just as critical, including:

- Urgent bonding reforms that ensure that oil and gas companies pay to clean up their drilling sites after production ends instead of American taxpayers and local communities. Wells that aren't cleaned up by companies can pollute our waters, emit dangerous methane, and harm wildlife and habitat. Minimum bond amounts haven't been touched since the 1950s and 1960s – the proposed rule would adjust these rates to counter a half century of inflation and better reflect actual cleanup costs;
- Preference criteria to steer leasing decisions away from critical habitats and cultural resources, and reduce speculation;
- Language to penalize oil and gas companies who routinely violate environmental and labor standards, dodge payments, and shed liabilities.
- These reforms will have [no impact on gas prices](#) or consumer energy costs, and will eliminate wasteful spending, enhance access for hunting, fishing, recreation, and renewable energy, and clamp down on profiteering by oil companies – several of which combined for a staggering total of [\\$190 billion](#) in profits in 2022, a full 100 percent higher than the previous record in 2021.

Lastly, H.R. 6009 would prohibit DOI from proposing a substantially similar rule in the future – effectively gutting the agency's ability to manage public lands for anything other than maximizing industry profits.

In sum, this legislation maintains a broken status quo that favors special interest profits over protecting taxpayers from subsidizing the oil and gas industry and then being saddled with paying the cost to clean up drilling sites. Finalizing a strong, durable rule is critical to eliminating waste and inefficiency in the onshore program, while also moving the BLM's stewardship of the nation's public lands and minerals closer in line with the public's interest in protecting and preserving public lands, waters, and wildlife.

The BLM's oil and gas leasing rule is supported by Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship, National Wildlife Federation, Taxpayers for Common Sense, The Wilderness Society, and several dozen other conservation-focused organizations. H.R. 6009 is opposed by these organizations and a broad coalition of conservation, climate, and environmental justice groups.