

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 4, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

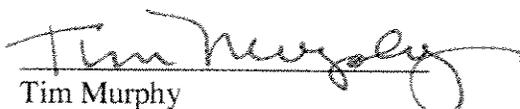
As members of the Congressional Natural Gas Caucus, we write to express our concerns about reports that the Department of the Interior may seek to impose new regulations on the natural gas extraction process on federal lands and urge you to not institute any new regulatory burdens before the completion of the 2010-2012 Environmental Protection Agency study on hydraulic fracturing.

In the Fiscal Year 2010 budget report, the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Conference Committee identified the need for a focused study on the hydraulic fracturing process. As it now stands, EPA has issued voluntary information requests to national and regional hydraulic fracturing service providers and has yet to fully review or even gather all the data necessary to complete the Congressionally-directed study.

We also would note that the vast majority of scientific evidence shows hydraulic fracturing to be safe, less resource-intensive for the environment than traditional methods, and properly managed and regulated at the state level. Consequently, hastily proposed regulatory burdens on natural gas will increase energy costs for consumers, suppress job creation in a promising energy sector, and hinder our nation's ability to become more energy independent.

We entrust that you will proceed in a manner that respects the legislative process and yields to the Congressionally-directed study that the Environmental Protection Agency is currently conducting. Our Caucus looks forward to working with you on this issue during the 112th Congress.

Sincerely,


Tim Murphy
Co-Chair, Natural Gas Caucus


Dan Boren
Co-Chair, Natural Gas Caucus

Harsha Bachbana

Jan Emeric

John Shuman

Henry

Don Burton

Frank D Lucas

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