

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4480, the Domestic Energy and Jobs Act. This legislation contained seven titles, including a leasing portion authored by Representative Mike Coffman (CO-06) which will provide certainty to industry and help create jobs. Formerly introduced as [H.R. 4382](#), Providing Leasing Certainty for American Energy Act, this leasing title within the larger Domestic Energy and Jobs Act reforms the leasing process for onshore oil and natural gas projects on federal land in order to eliminate unnecessary government delays and hurdles while encouraging job creation and economic growth.

“Increased energy production here in the United States will create jobs and improve our economy. We have endured several years of higher than 8% unemployment. The fact that we are not fully benefiting from the employment and financial potential of our energy resources is simply wrong,” said Coffman. “The jobs that this bill and the others in the package will create are high paying and will produce huge economic benefits for rest of the economy. Americans working directly in the oil and gas sector are currently paid an average of \$28.30 per hour – more than in the manufacturing, wholesale trade, education, finance, and information technology sectors. And, investment in this industry spreads widely and further creates tens of thousands of indirect jobs, especially in manufacturing. ”

The Obama administration has increasingly put up barriers that have driven out development on federal lands which has had a disproportionately negative impact on Colorado and other Western states - where much of the land are owned by the federal government. Currently, there are roughly 1,631 outstanding projects on federal lands, including lands in Colorado, which have been delayed over three years. Rep. Coffman’s legislation would require the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to approve 25% of all leases nominated by industry for development to ensure a steady, reliable exploration of our abundant resources every year. It is important to note that this provision would only involve lands that have already been designated as environmentally suitable for oil and gas development by the federal government.

“Historically, roughly 30% of available acreage has been leased, but in 2011 only 3% was actually approved by the BLM. In Colorado alone, the total number of new leases granted by the BLM decreased from 363 in 2006 to only 11 in 2011. The oil and gas industry in Colorado directly employs 50,000 people and supports over 190,000 jobs in the state. The industry is responsible for roughly 6% of total employment in Colorado - we cannot survive, economically, with only 11 new leases. More energy production in the United States translates to more jobs domestically and less of our money flowing out of the country to buy the energy that America needs. My legislation will help accomplish that,” said Coffman.

The Domestic Energy and Jobs Act, a comprehensive energy agenda, reflects a true all-of-the-above approach to energy production. It will not only reduce energy costs that hard-working families and small businesses currently face, but also spur badly needed economic growth and job creation.

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