

OPPOSE THE ENERGY BILL

IT WILL DEVASTATE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LANDS IN THE WEST

Under S 2095 oil and gas development would trump all other land uses--habitat for wildlife, ranching, hunting, and camping. Western landscapes, communities, and private property owners would suffer new abuses while the bill does little to make energy cheaper, cleaner and safer for all Americans.



Rosebud Creek, MT rancher Clint McRae
Photo courtesy of Northern Plains

THE ENERGY BILL THREATENS THE ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF LANDOWNERS AND COMMUNITIES

Privately owned agricultural lands and grazing lands across the West are being crisscrossed by roads and pipelines and dotted with deafening compressors, polluted well pads, and toxic wastewater ponds. Additional transmission capacity is proposed across private lands without knowledge of whether it is needed. Many acres of land are becoming unsuitable for any other economic pursuit for generations to come. The Energy Bill would speed up development by:

- ◆ Seeking to grant private entities the right to condemn private property for electric transmission lines (Section 1221e);
- ◆ Attempting to shut out private landowners and other community members from land management decisions regarding their own land--and their neighbors'--by drastically reducing opportunities for them to comment on industry's drilling plans (Sections 341-343, 347 and 348).

THE ENERGY BILL ENDANGERS CLEAN WATER AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Coalbed methane wastewater containing toxic salts and other pollutants already threatens to destroy 30,000 acres of irrigated cropland. This will compromise the water of hundreds of farm and ranch families in the Tongue and Powder River Basins of Montana and Wyoming.

The Energy Bill poses new threats to clean water resources that people from Montana to New Mexico rely on for drinking, irrigation, and watering stock by:

- ◆ Seeking to exempt diesel fuel and other toxic materials injected into the ground (called hydraulic fracturing) from the Safe Drinking Water Act. Groundwater aquifers could be contaminated, including drinking water and irrigation wells (Section 327);
- ◆ Attempting to give industry the right to pollute lakes, rivers, and streams with toxic chemicals including benzene and drilling oils by exempting oil and gas construction activities from Clean Water Act requirements (Section 328).

THE ENERGY BILL JEOPARDIZES HUNTING AND RECREATION IN AMERICA'S WILD PLACES

Two thousand new wells and 170 miles of new roads across big game and cutthroat trout habitat and valuable grazing land are under consideration for the pristine Roan Plateau in Colorado. The Energy Bill could threaten this beautiful area, livelihoods, and its \$4 million annual income from hunting revenues by:

- ◆ Attempting to target protections for big game, fisheries, and cultural and historic sites as "restrictions and impediments" to energy development (Section 345);
- ◆ Endangering wildlife protections of areas such as elk calving grounds or migration corridors, by seeking to require reviews of all existing protective measures that may have a "significant adverse effect" on energy development, thus placing oil and gas production above all other uses of the public lands (Section 346).



Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Adobe Town, Red Desert
Photo courtesy of Biodiversity Conservation Alliance

THE ENERGY BILL SLASHES PUBLIC REVIEW OF OIL AND GAS PERMITS

Three hundred and eighty-five wells are proposed for the core of Wyoming's beautiful Red Desert destroying 50,000 acres of a proposed wilderness area. The Energy Bill would jeopardize this and many other areas in the West by:

- ◆ Short-changing environmental review and public participation in seven sites in the Rocky Mountains that currently process thousands of permits each year through a "pilot program" (Section 347);
- ◆ Threatening sustainable rural economies by attempting to require agencies to rubber stamp oil and gas development. Under the bill, agencies could fast track permit review and approvals without adequate consideration for environmental, economic and recreational concerns. Many federal oil and gas leases sit under private farms and ranches or treasured hunting grounds. This provision seeks to prevent government officials from balancing the protection of these resources with development of federal oil and gas leases (Section 348).

Don't let this...



Roan Plateau, CO
Photo courtesy of Colorado Environmental Coalition

THE ENERGY BILL BENEFITS THE OIL AND GAS COMPANIES, BUT DOES NOT PROTECT CUSTOMERS FROM SOARING GAS PRICES

- ◆ The energy bill offers **billions of dollars in new tax breaks** to the oil and gas industry. The bill also reduces royalties for energy extraction from public lands. This corporate pork **would go to an industry currently experiencing record-breaking profits.**
- ◆ There is no need for these provisions. Currently there are already 61,000 oil and gas producing wells on public lands throughout the West. A recent Department of Interior study confirmed that **85% of oil resources and 88% of gas resources are already available for development on public land in the five Rocky Mountain states.** Despite claims to the contrary, energy companies enjoy open access to public energy resources.
- ◆ According to the federal government's own estimates, the proposed **gutting of environmental review and public participation would increase natural gas supplies by less than one percent and reduce the average household's annual gas costs by only five dollars in 2020.** This is clearly not worth the cost to the West's environment, economy and way of life.

The energy bill seeks to override a 50-year history of managing our mineral resources and public lands for multiple use and sustained yield. This bill would make fossil fuel production the single dominant use of our western public lands and threaten the western way of life.

Protect the West. Oppose the "No Lobbyist Left Behind" Energy Bill and seek a visionary energy policy that's good for the economy and the environment.

Turn into this...



Oil and gas development along I-70 in CO below Roan Plateau
Photo courtesy of Kurt Kunkle

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

DAVE ALBERSWERTH, THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY, 202-429-2695
 SHARON BUCCINO, NRDC, 202-289-6868
 SARA KENDALL, WESTERN ORGANIZATION OF RESOURCE COUNCILS, 202-547-7040
 DAN LAVERY, SIERRA CLUB, 202-675-2390
 RANDY MOORMAN, EARTHJUSTICE, 202-667-4500
 MATT NIEMESKI, DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE, 202-682-9400