

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 19, 2019

Secretary David Bernhardt
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Bernhardt:

We write to you today to express our concern with litigation facing the Department of the Interior's (DOI) oil and gas leases in Wyoming and across the West. Specifically, we inquire regarding the decision in *Wild Earth Guardians v. Zinke*, 368 F.Supp.3d 41, and would like to know what steps you plan to take to ensure that future development on federal oil and gas leases are allowed to continue without interruption.

Energy development is the backbone of Wyoming's economy, and our state is a top-ten producer of oil and natural gas. Given that the federal government manages nearly half of Wyoming's lands, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plays a large role in Wyoming's energy economy.

We were disappointed in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia's decision to halt drill permitting on Wyoming oil and gas leases. The Court held that the BLM's "analyses of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions", as conducted by the BLM under the Obama Administration, were "inadequate." Given that these issues often appear in court at the behest of environmental groups whose stated desire is to end all oil and gas development, we ask that your department work fervently to meet the requirements set forth under the National Environmental Policy Act, and if necessary, to appeal this decision to a higher court, so as to establish a clear standard regarding greenhouse gas analyses in environmental reviews.

We are also concerned these groups will continue to pursue litigation without resolution. It is imperative that DOI continue to expeditiously and thoroughly complete its analyses, and see these matters to completion so final decisions are attained.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this request, and we look forward to your response no later than September 3, 2019.

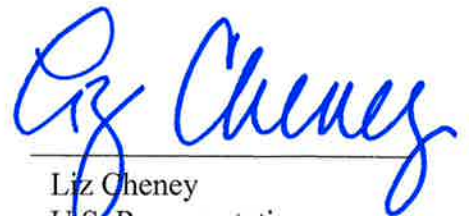
Sincerely,



Michael B. Enzi
U.S. Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.
U.S. Senator



Liz Cheney
U.S. Representative