

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**Subcommittee on Energy and Power**  
**Hearing on "The American Energy Initiative: A Focus on Growing**  
**Differences for Energy Development on Federal vs. Non-Federal Lands"**  
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There is a tale of two energy policies to be told in this country. There are the states where domestic oil and natural gas production is growing, and there are the states where it is stagnating.

In some states, oil and natural gas output is sharply increasing on private and state-owned lands. But in others, where the Obama administration calls the shots on federally controlled lands and offshore areas, the news is not as good. In fact, a recent Congressional Research Service study found that 96 percent of the increase in domestic oil supplies since 2007 has come from non-federal lands.

Where production on state and private lands is up, we see the energy industry creating thousands of high-paying jobs and revitalizing local economies. But where most of the oil and gas remains untouched beneath the ground or under the sea floor due to federal access restrictions, the job potential remains largely unrealized.

Under one energy policy vision, we see state and local regulations ensuring that energy production is done safely and that public health is protected. In the other, we see one excuse after another for preventing energy production entirely or subjecting it to years of unnecessary delays.

Today, we will view these two energy policies through the prism of two states. We will look at the success story of North Dakota, whose growing oil production on private, state, and tribal lands should serve as a model for the nation. And we will compare it to states like Alaska, where federal control of energy-rich onshore and offshore areas means that drilling often gets blocked by bureaucrats in Washington.

Alaska and other states are blessed with energy but cursed with federal red tape. That is why our committee has been a leader on measures like the Domestic Energy and Jobs Act that will reduce the red tape and allow these states to replicate North Dakota's success.

If we take the lessons from this tale of two energy policies and allow states like Alaska to harness their resources as they do in states like North Dakota, it would benefit the national economy, jobs, gasoline prices, and energy security. This is a powerful story, and I thank our witnesses for being here to tell it.

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