



July 29, 2013

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
Chairman
Energy and Power Subcommittee
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Rush
Ranking Member
Energy and Power Subcommittee
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Upton and Whitfield and Ranking Members Waxman and Rush:

We are the National Association of Royalty Owners (NARO) and represent the concerns of an estimated 8.5 million American private owners of oil and gas mineral and royalty interests. We live and vote in all 50 states, even though our producing minerals may be in Arkansas, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Wyoming or any of the 33 producing states. NARO has been educating and advocating for mineral/royalty owners since our original incorporation 33 years ago in 1980.

The majority (something around 70%) of the minerals in the U.S. are owned by individuals and leased to companies for development. These private lands are where the vast majority of the energy renaissance is occurring in this country with the development of the shale resource plays. In order to be sure our mineral interests are fully developed it is necessary that regulatory programs are in place to encourage these activities and not become road blocks. We therefore strongly support H.R. 1900, the "Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act."

To fully realize this country's vast mineral resource, it is necessary to have the infrastructure to deliver the produced product to the consumer. H.R.1900 will assist in the permitting process and hopefully expedite pipeline gathering and delivery systems which will benefit manufacturing, transportation, electric generation and the consuming public.

Thank you for this important legislation and please let us know if NARO may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Jerry R. Simmons
Executive Director