

Rep. Liz Cheney (WY-at large) statement for the record:

The ONSHORE Act being considered today will eliminate redundancy in the permitting process, reduce overreaching federal regulations, and enable states to manage oil and gas operations on federal lands within their states. The federal overreach of the last eight years has done real damage to our energy industry, creating a disadvantage to states like mine where so much of our land and resources are federally owned. We have also seen a huge backlog in the granting of applications for permit to drill, with the Casper, Wyoming BLM office having the largest backlog of any state in the nation. The ONSHORE Act will help to streamline this process by giving states more authority to manage and permit these projects. In addition, Wyoming's checkerboard mineral and surface estate ownership and split-estate ownership have created unique difficulties for oil and gas operations, particularly with directional and horizontal well bores. Should any portion of the operation affect a federal mineral estate, the operator is subject to the full federal permitting process, even if their drill pad is on private or state land.

The ONSHORE Act addresses this issue by clarifying that an operation occurring on private or state land does not require a federal permit. The ONSHORE Act also includes a bill I introduced that would return the additional portion of state royalties the federal government began collecting in 2007 as an "administrative fee" for processing mineral royalty revenues. Section three of the ONSHORE Act will allow states to collect the royalties directly, restoring the proper 50/50 split. Oil and gas operations are crucial to our economy. The ONSHORE Act reaffirms states as equal partners to the federal government. This legislation will allow those who know the land and industry best to manage operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman."