

Question from Rep. Gosar for Ms. Wrotenbery:

In your testimony, you stress the importance of the states' expertise in carrying out orphan well remediation programs. In fact, I understand that states have already plugged a collective 70,000 wells. To be clear, do you believe states want or need a restrictive federal program dictating how they should clean up wells?

Response from Ms. Wrotenbery:

IOGCC's member states neither want nor need a restrictive federal program dictating how they should plug orphan wells and remediate orphan well sites. They already have established programs for this purpose. As you note, the states have plugged more than 70,000 orphan wells to date. The best way to employ additional workers and accelerate the pace of orphan well plugging and remediation is to provide funding to the existing state programs rather than create a new federal program. The federal government should avoid the unnecessary cost, delay, and disruption that would result from attempting to duplicate the existing state programs at the federal level or imposing burdensome or prescriptive federal requirements on the existing state programs.