

**House Natural Resources Committee  
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources  
July 13th, 2023  
Written Testimony on H.R. 4374 - “Energy Opportunities for All Act”**

**Mario P. Atencio, Vice-President of Torreon/Starlake Chapter of the Navajo Nation  
Government**

**Written Answers to Subcommittee Questions  
Submitted on July 31, 2023**

Chairman Westernman Questions:

1. Mr. Chairman: I am not currently a board member of Diné Citizens Against Ruining our Environment’s (C.A.R.E.) and I do not have the information you seek.
2. Mr. Chairman: Yes. However, my father did not sign the federal oil and gas lease. Due to federal individual Indian land tenure regulations a simple majority is all that is needed to approve a lease on individual Indian allotted lands.

Representative Grijalva Questions:

1. Rep. Grijalva it is my understanding that royalty payments will not be impacted by Public Land Order No. 7923. My father has informed me he did receive the June and July 2023 royalty payments without any issue.
2. Rep. Grijalva, I think continued unchecked oil and gas development has already deeply impacted the Navajo people and their heritage. We see that the decade of local legislative opposition to oil and gas development on public lands point to a considered position that oil and gas development has had significant disruption to the physical and spiritual health of the people. Continued unchecked oil and gas development will compound the current impacts and cause irreparable community spiritual/ environmental health impacts. Future spills, like the spill on my father’s land, would burden an unknown number of future generations with the horrendous task of trying to clean up/reclaim the damage caused by oil and gas production across our landscape, and they will know that we had a chance to take reasonable action to protect them from harm yet we failed to do so.