

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 31, 2023

Mr. Tom Kropatsch  
Oil and Gas Supervisor  
Wyoming Oil And Gas Conservation Commission  
PO Box 2640  
Casper, WY 82602

Dear Mr. Kropatsch:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources at an oversight hearing on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, on the following bills:

- **H.R. 1449 (Rep. Fulcher)**, "*Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act*" or the "*CLEAN Act*";
- **H.R. 2855 (Rep. Soto)**, "*Sinkhole Mapping Act of 2023*";
- **Discussion draft of H.R. \_\_\_ (Rep. Valadao)**, "*Right of Way Application Transparency and Accountability Act*" or the "*ROWATA Act*"; and
- **Discussion draft of H.R. \_\_\_ (Rep. Boebert)**, "*Restoring American Energy Dominance Act.*"

Your testimony on H.R. \_\_\_ (Rep. Boebert) was extremely helpful in defining the Subcommittee's understanding of the issue and I appreciate the effort you took to prepare and present your testimony. While many questions were asked during the hearing, the Subcommittee has additional questions, attached, for your reply.

Please forward your responses to Lonnie Smith, Clerk of the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, at [Lonnie.smith@mail.house.gov](mailto:Lonnie.smith@mail.house.gov) by November 14, 2023. Your assistance in meeting this deadline is requested, as failure to meet it will be noted in the printed transcript.

Once again, thank you for your extensive effort in making this a valuable hearing.

Sincerely,



Pete Stauber  
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources  
Chairman

Enclosure

**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources**  
**Legislative Hearing**  
**1324 Longworth House Office Building**  
**October 25, 2023**  
**3:00 PM**

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  - **H.R. 2855 (Rep. Soto)**, “*Sinkhole Mapping Act of 2023*”;
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**Questions from Rep. Ocasio-Cortez for Mr. Kropatsch, Oil and Gas Supervisor, Wyoming**  
**Oil and Gas Conservation Commission**

1. After Wyoming updated its state bonding rules for oil and gas wells in 2015, did production of oil and gas in Wyoming increase or decrease in the following years? How much did new wells drilled after 2015 contribute to Wyoming’s overall production?
2. The Inflation Reduction Act raised the federal royalty rate on oil and gas production from 12.5 percent to 16.67 percent. How does the updated federal royalty rate compare with Wyoming’s state royalty rates?