

Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Legislative Hearing
1324 Longworth House Office Building
March 25, 2026
10:15 AM

- **H.R. 1555 (Rep. Bice)**, “*Bureau of Land Management Mineral Spacing Act*”
- **H.R. 5639 (Rep. Kennedy of UT)**, “*Co-Location Energy Act*”
- **H.R. 7831 (Rep. Kennedy of UT)**, “*License to Drill Act*”
- **H.R. 7872 (Rep. Hageman)**, To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to provide for the payment of bonus payments of certain coal leases issued under that Act.
- **H.R. 7882 (Rep. Stauber)**, To provide for the leasing of certain deposits of minerals located within the City of Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Questions from Rep. Fulcher for Mr. Daniel Naatz, Executive Vice President & Chief Policy Officer,
Independent Petroleum Association of America

- 1. How would opening parts of Carlsbad, New Mexico to mineral leasing decrease U.S. reliance on foreign adversaries?**

Answer: The more oil and natural gas we produce at home, the more we allow the United States to remain an energy “Superpower.” The growth in American oil and natural gas production in the last 20 years, in basins around the country, enhances American energy security, supports high paying jobs, and supports local communities throughout the nation.

- 2. How would opening parts of Carlsbad, New Mexico to mineral leasing provide direct benefits to the city?**

Answer: The royalties from oil and natural gas production on federal lands are split 50/50 with the state where production occurs. These dollars allow states, like New Mexico, to fund schools, roads, conservation efforts, and infrastructure projects. In addition, this production in Carlsbad will support high paying industry jobs that will support local communities in the region.