



RESOLUTION 21.051

Urging the Federal Government to Work with States in the Spirit of Cooperative Federalism During Review of the Federal Fossil Fuel Program

WHEREAS, the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC), representing the governors of thirty-one oil and gas producing states, is one of the oldest and largest interstate compacts in the nation, formed to facilitate the ability of the states to join together to resolve common issues in the energy sector independent of federal intervention; and

WHEREAS, states are the principal regulatory authorities for domestic onshore oil and natural gas production, with more than 80 years of experience in this regard; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the IOGCC member states adopted Resolution 17.101, agreeing to pursue a program of cooperative federalism to work closely and coordinate with federal agencies, including the United States Department of the Interior (DOI), to “pursue regulatory improvement and innovation” on issues including the management of public lands, environmental protection, and resource conservation; and

WHEREAS, the principle of cooperative federalism has historically allowed the federal government and states to improve the lives of millions of Americans by working collectively to solve common problems, while allowing for states to innovate and control their own destinies on energy; and

WHEREAS, the Acting Secretary of the Interior issued Secretarial Order No. 3395 on January 21, 2021, temporarily suspending delegated approval authorities and requiring approvals at the Assistant Secretary level or higher for many fossil fuel authorizations; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 14008, which directed the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to pause all new oil and natural gas leases on



public lands or offshore waters “pending completion of a comprehensive review and reconsideration of Federal oil and gas permitting and leasing practices in light of the Secretary of the Interior’s broad stewardship responsibilities over the public lands and in offshore waters, including potential climate and other impacts associated with oil and gas activities on public lands or in offshore waters”; and

WHEREAS, between 1970 and 2019, the six major air pollutants monitored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have fallen 77%, while our energy consumption grew 48%, economy grew 285%, and population grew 60%; and

WHEREAS, according to preliminary estimations by the Rhodium Group, CO₂ emissions were down 21% below 2005 levels last year, continuing the trend highlighted by the U.S. Energy Information Administration’s report in 2019, which showed energy-related CO₂ emissions declined eight out of 12 years; and

WHEREAS, the Governors of several member states of IOGCC have expressed their concerns about potential impacts of changes to the federal oil and gas leasing program, including a curtailment of new leasing; and


WHEREAS, at a March 25, 2021, public forum the Secretary pledged to continue to meet with Governors on “both sides of the aisle” to further the discussion of public lands’ energy programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that member states of the IOGCC will continue pursuing a program of cooperative federalism and work closely with Federal agencies on issues related to environmental protection and resource conservation, including the future of oil and gas leasing, development, and management on federal lands and waters, and encourages the Federal government to work with member states of the IOGCC to understand the impacts of changes in Federal oil and gas and other mineral leasing programs on the states and how federal land and minerals are uniquely managed in each member state; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal government be urged to evaluate the actions that have already been taken by the member states of the IOGCC to reduce waste and address other resource impacts associated with oil and gas development.

I certify that this is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted by the Commission on May 18, 2021.


Lori Wrotenbery
Executive Director
Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission

