

Statement of Congressman Scott Tipton
November 19, 2013
General Debate H.R. 1965, Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act of 2013

Thank you Mr. Chairman. And thank you Chairman Lamborn for yielding time on this critical matter. I appreciate the opportunity to have been able to work closely with you on this legislation and was pleased that my *Planning for American Energy Act* (H.R. 1394) was incorporated as title II of the *Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act of 2013*. This final commonsense package seeks to put in place a responsible American energy plan that will reduce energy costs for consumers, while also spurring economic growth and job creation.

The legislation before us today would unleash the potential for thousands of new jobs and establish a reliable, affordable and secure source of American energy through responsible production. Title II of the *Federal Lands Jobs and Energy Security Act* seeks to establish common sense steps to create an all-of-the-above American energy plan for using federal lands to meet America's energy needs. Under Title II of this legislation, the non-partisan Energy Information Administration provides the projected energy needs of the United States for the next 30 years to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. The Secretaries would use this information to establish environmentally responsible four year energy production plans.

The bill allows for energy development on public lands in order to promote the energy and national security of the United States in accordance with the multiple-use management standard established by the Federal Land Policy Management Act. Title II requires that all energy resources including wind, solar, hydropower, geothermal, oil, natural gas, coal, oil shale and minerals needed for energy development be included in the plan. These goals would be accomplished responsibly, without repealing a single environmental regulation or review process.

Earlier this year, an important study entitled *Energy Cost Impacts on American Families* was released. This study, which relies on government data, had some troubling findings including that more than 50% of U.S. households are expected to spend at least 20 percent of their family budget on energy costs in 2013. This figure has nearly doubled in the last ten years alone. Even more troubling is the fact that these increases in energy costs have a disproportionately negative impact on families with lower incomes and seniors on fixed-incomes. This stands to reason given the decline in energy production on federal lands under this Administration. Since President Obama took office, production on federal lands has declined significantly, including a staggering 21 percent decline in federal natural gas production.

Colorado, along with our neighboring Western states, is in a unique position to contribute to our nation's energy security and ensure that the United States remains competitive in the world market. By promoting a common-sense regulatory framework, embracing domestic energy

research and development, and applying environmental and safety standards already on the books rather than adding costly new mandates, we can help meet America's energy needs right here at home, providing energy and economic security that will benefit American families.

An all-of-the-above domestic energy plan that responsibly increases production on federal lands is needed to ensure the future prosperity of our nation. That is exactly what H.R. 1965 will accomplish. It creates a framework to responsibly meet America's energy needs, lowers energy costs for consumers, and creates much needed jobs. I urge immediate passage of this bill, and with that Mr. Chairman, I yield back.