



PRESS RELEASE

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“IECA Urges Secretary Salazar to Not Regulate Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal Lands”

In a letter today to the Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA) raised deep concern over their efforts to introduce new hydraulic fracturing related regulation on federal lands. Western states with federal lands already have regulations in place that protect the environment. New federal regulation is not needed and will slow natural gas and oil production just when it is needed most – impacting manufacturing jobs and competitiveness.

IECA member companies have good reason to be concerned. In the period from 2000 to 2005 natural gas prices doubled and tripled because demand exceeded supply. We remember that the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) permitting system, heavy with increased bureaucracy and inadequate staffing, resulted in thousands of drilling permit backlogs. Wells did not get drilled, natural gas and oil did not get produced and the manufacturing sector and the economy as a whole suffered. There were plenty of natural gas reserves to be produced and the federal government was directly responsible for the failure to allow producers access to the natural gas in order to produce it for us, the consumer.

Since 2000, the manufacturing sector has lost 5.5 million jobs. For the first time in two decades, we have the potential for a manufacturing renaissance because of low natural gas prices. Low natural gas prices provide a strategic advantage over our non-U.S. competitors, and companies are beginning to invest in the U.S. We urge Secretary Salazar to not impose regulations that are unnecessary – the consequences are too great.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$700 billion in annual sales and with more than 650,000 employees nationwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through research, advocacy, and collaboration for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: plastics, cement, paper, food processing, brick, chemicals, fertilizer, insulation, steel, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, aluminum and brewing.