

January ??, 2016

SAMPLE LETTER TO LAWMAKERS

Senator[/Representative] Firstname Lastname
home address
hometown, ID 83???

Honorable Senator[/Representative] Lastname,

I am writing to you today to ask that you take any and all necessary actions to protect your constituents by repealing two bills that were passed in 2012 and 2015 – that never should have seen the light of day.

House Bill 464, now Idaho Statute 47-317, stripped from cities and counties all jurisdiction over where oil/gas wells can be located in a community. What used to be a process involving public notice and a public hearing at the local level has now been handed to an agency that can only deny a well application for two reasons: 1) if there will be a wasting of the ‘resource’; or 2) if there will be impacts to groundwater. That amounts to mere rubber-stamping of applications from a protected industry. (Please tell me how you prove something is going to happen until it does? – when the damage is already done.) Idaho Dept. of Lands employees in Boise do not know what is best for citizens of Payette or Emmett or Eagle; and this is *not* protecting the citizens of the state, as you are sworn to do.

The people who know what is best for their communities are the residents of those communities. In a state that prides itself on local control – and keeping ‘big government’ out – it is astonishing that this bill ever got passed out of committee.

House Bill 50, now Idaho Statute 47-323, gives the state the authority to force (‘integrate’) people who do not want to do business with the oil and gas industry/company (for a wide variety of reasons) after land men have gotten a mere 55% of the mineral rights leased in a section. As if that wasn’t bad enough, the O&G company is requesting that the Idaho Oil & Gas Commission issue an order that would allow them to take 300% ‘risk penalty’ out of someone’s royalties (State-sponsored theft?) if that mineral rights owner can’t write a check – *up front* – for their ‘share’ of the well and infrastructure! Since when did it become okay for the state to act as the ‘strong arm’ for a private industry? This puts homeowners in a precarious position. And giving special treatment to a single industry is not capitalism nor free-market principles. The O&G industry shouldn’t be treated any differently than any other business owner in Idaho.

Please turn your attention during this 2016 legislative session to ensuring that both of these bills are repealed and that the citizens of Idaho are protected.

Thank you, I look forward to hearing back from you with the steps you’ve personally taken to get both 47-317 and 47-323 repealed *this* session.

Sincerely,

Your Name & address