



May 25, 2021

The Honorable Joe Manchin III
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources

Dear Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso,

As Governors and members of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, we write to endorse S. 1076, the “Revive Economic Growth and Reclaim Orphaned Wells (REGROW) Act of 2021,” introduced by Senators Luján and Cramer on April 12, 2021. This legislation has been referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and we urge its swift passage through the Committee.

A combination of the pandemic and a price war between Russia and Saudi Arabia in 2020 decimated demand for natural gas and oil, which led to a rapid drop-off in domestic production. That drop off had a two-fold effect on producing states: crippling job losses and declining state revenue derived from taxes and royalties from natural gas and oil production. This legislation addresses both concerns while also supporting environmental protection and remediation.

The labor pools for natural gas and oil production and well plugging and remediation are virtually the same. A healthy influx of well plugging projects will provide job opportunities for tens of thousands of these workers while fast-tracking environmental restoration across the country. The states have plugged over 70,000 orphaned wells over the last several decades, but current state well inventories include a roughly equal number of documented orphaned wells remaining to be plugged. This legislation supports state programs by providing an infusion of funds to plug orphaned wells and accelerate the associated environmental benefits.

S. 1076 is a good piece of legislation that will put workers back to work, have a real stimulative effect on our economy, protect the environment, and improve communities. We hope you will quickly move this important bill through your committee.

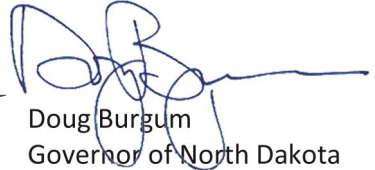
Sincerely,



J. Kevin Stitt
Governor of Oklahoma
IOGCC Chair



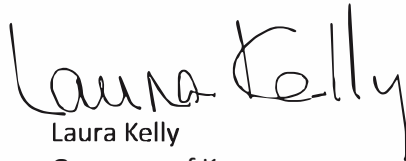
Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor of New Mexico



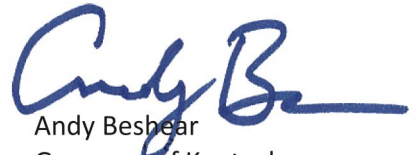
Doug Burgum
Governor of North Dakota



Brad Little
Governor of Idaho



Laura Kelly
Governor of Kansas



Andy Beshear
Governor of Kentucky



Mike DeWine
Governor of Ohio



Tom Wolf
Governor of Pennsylvania



Greg Abbott
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Spencer Cox
Governor of Utah



Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia



Mark Gordon
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