

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

2 INTRODUCED BY E. WALKER

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF POLICIES THAT PROMOTE THE
6 RESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF OIL AND GAS LEASES ON FEDERAL LANDS.

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8 WHEREAS, there are 32 million acres of oil and gas minerals in Montana that are owned by the American
9 public and administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and

10 WHEREAS, the federal government does not develop oil and gas itself, but instead leases development
11 rights to private industry. Leasing demand is a function of market conditions and national energy consumption;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the BLM succumbed to pressure from environmental groups and halted bids on oil and gas
14 leases last year even though concerns about greenhouse gas emissions and effects on wildlife are unfounded;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the decline in federal leasing of minerals makes it more difficult for companies to develop
17 oil and gas in an environmentally responsible manner, harms economies throughout the state, and decreases
18 state and local government revenue; and

19 WHEREAS, this policy puts Montana at a distinct disadvantage compared to other regions of the country
20 that do not have significant federal lands, acting as a catalyst that will cause energy jobs and economic activity
21 to migrate to those other regions; and

22 WHEREAS, policies that further slow leasing and permitting will discourage companies from operating
23 in Montana and the state will not experience the rebound in jobs and economic growth that it otherwise would
24 as the American economy recovers; and

25 WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry in Montana is a valued partner in supplying oil and natural gas
26 resources that enhance American energy security.

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28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
29 STATE OF MONTANA:

30 (1) That the United States Department of the Interior consider the negative impact that oil and gas leasing

1 and permitting policies may have on Montana's economy, the jobs of its citizens, and the state and local
2 government revenue that funds vital services such as schools, roads, and law enforcement.

3 (2) That the United States Department of the Interior develop policies that promote the responsible
4 development of Montana's public lands.

5 (3) That the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the
6 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the
7 secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, and each member of the Montana Congressional
8 Delegation.

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