

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0003

Federal suspension and orders on oil and gas production.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Cooper and Driskill and  
Representative(s) Bear

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress and the federal  
2 government to reverse federal orders and actions that inhibit  
3 the safe development of oil and gas in Wyoming and that  
4 negatively and disproportionately impact Wyoming citizens and  
5 industries.

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7 WHEREAS, the state of Wyoming contains abundant and vast  
8 natural resources that are and can be used for the production  
9 of energy throughout the United States and world; and

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11 WHEREAS, Wyoming produces energy that benefits consumers and  
12 industries throughout the United States; and

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1 WHEREAS, the energy industry in Wyoming provides millions of  
2 dollars in taxes and other revenues annually to the state of  
3 Wyoming; and

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5 WHEREAS, the state of Wyoming and the energy industry have  
6 worked together for years to develop Wyoming's energy  
7 resources in a safe and environmentally responsible manner,  
8 including the development of technologies to promote the  
9 responsible development and use of Wyoming energy; and

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11 WHEREAS, the federal government owns almost one-half (1/2) of  
12 the surface acreage within the state of Wyoming and more than  
13 forty-two million (42,000,000) acres of mineral estate in  
14 Wyoming; and

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16 WHEREAS, federal decisions and actions banning, pausing or  
17 significantly reducing the production of energy negatively  
18 impact the economy of Wyoming and the livelihoods and well-  
19 being of Wyoming's residents; and

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21 WHEREAS, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed Executive  
22 Order No. 13,990 on January 20, 2021, which requires the

1 federal Secretary of the Interior to unilaterally stop all  
2 federal leasing of oil and gas resources in Wyoming; and

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4 WHEREAS, President Biden signed Executive Order No. 14,008 on  
5 January 27, 2021, which indefinitely pauses oil and natural  
6 gas leasing and calls for a comprehensive review of federal  
7 oil and gas permitting and leasing practices to evaluate  
8 potential climate impacts; and

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10 WHEREAS, the President and various federal agencies have,  
11 since January 20, 2021, taken actions and issued orders to  
12 limit actions, permits and leases for oil and gas production,  
13 including a Department of the Interior order that revoked  
14 authority for issuing fossil-fuel authorizations, leases,  
15 permits to drill and the affirmative extension of leases and  
16 contracts; and

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18 WHEREAS, these executive actions will lead companies to  
19 pursue energy development in other parts of the world where  
20 energy resources are not as environmentally responsible and  
21 where responsible energy regulations are lacking to where a  
22 net negative impact on climate emissions may likely result;  
23 and

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2 WHEREAS, these executive actions severely and negatively  
3 affect the value of property held by the state and citizens  
4 of Wyoming in areas affected by these orders due to the fact  
5 that federal property is intermingled with private and state  
6 lands and oil and gas development often involves lateral  
7 drilling techniques which cross several classes of property;  
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, these executive actions will adversely impact and  
11 jeopardize the employment of at least twenty thousand  
12 (20,000) Wyoming citizens who directly or indirectly work in  
13 oil, gas and related industries; and

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15 WHEREAS, these executive actions may result in negative  
16 impacts to Wyoming's diverse wildlife and habitat, including  
17 a decreased ability to mitigate wildlife impacts, increased  
18 development on currently undisturbed lands and a decrease in  
19 quality habitat reclamation work; and

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21 WHEREAS, these executive actions are causing immediate,  
22 disproportionate and extensive harm to the state of Wyoming  
23 and will inflict lasting damage on Wyoming residents,

1 industries and the critical services upon which Wyoming  
2 residents depend.

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4 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*  
5 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

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7       **Section 1.** That the President of the United States  
8 rescind, reverse or repeal the executive orders that were  
9 issued in January 2021 that suspend or pause leasing,  
10 permitting, extensions and authorizations of oil and gas  
11 development in Wyoming and that will have an adverse impact  
12 on climate change and Wyoming's wildlife and habitat  
13 resources while inflicting irreparable and disproportionate  
14 harm on the state of Wyoming.

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16       **Section 2.** That the President of the United States  
17 direct all federal agencies to rescind, reverse or repeal any  
18 secretarial orders or actions that negatively impact  
19 responsible energy and energy technology development in  
20 Wyoming, including Department of the Interior Secretarial  
21 Order No. 3395.

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1           **Section 3.** That the Wyoming Legislature strongly  
2 opposes actions by or that direct federal agencies, including  
3 the federal Environmental Protection Agency, to unilaterally  
4 increase the burden on existing oil and gas companies in  
5 Wyoming and to increase the burden on those companies'  
6 facilities in Wyoming in an attempt to achieve climate-  
7 related goals that are unrealistic and that  
8 disproportionately impact the people of Wyoming.

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10           **Section 4.** That the Wyoming Legislature strongly  
11 supports the efforts of the Wyoming congressional delegation  
12 to prevent the President and the federal executive branch  
13 from unilaterally issuing suspensions and moratoriums on  
14 energy development in Wyoming, including the Protecting Our  
15 Wealth of Energy Resources (POWER) Act of 2021 and the  
16 Safeguarding Oil and Gas Leasing and Permitting Act.

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18           **Section 5.** That the Wyoming Legislature strongly  
19 encourages further congressional action to protect  
20 responsible leasing and permitting of oil and gas in Wyoming  
21 and to protect Wyoming's residents, energy industry and other  
22 industries that are negatively impacted by these executive  
23 actions.

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2           **Section 6.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming  
3 transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the  
4 United States, to the Acting Secretary of the Department of  
5 the Interior, to the Acting Administrator of the federal  
6 Environmental Protection Agency, to the President of the  
7 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the  
8 United States Congress and to the Wyoming Congressional  
9 Delegation.

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(END)