

## **ENDING THE OIL AND GAS LEASING PAUSE ON FEDERAL LANDS**

Failed: 49-50

### **SUMMARY:**

The Senate rejected an amendment opposing the Biden administration's pause on oil and gas leasing on federal lands. (*August 10, 2021, Roll Call No. 320*)

### **BACKGROUND:**

Our nation's public lands protect some of the most intact and well-preserved wildlife habitat in the U.S. In total, the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management manage 27% our land. Many species, including hundreds that are classified as threatened, endangered or candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act, rely on habitats managed by these agencies for their survival. However, our public lands are under constant threat of exploitation by the oil and gas industry. Fossil fuel development and extraction degrade and fragment habitat, pollute lands and waters, threaten cultural sites and releases greenhouse gasses and more than half of those leases are unused.

On January 27, President Biden signed an Executive Order directing the Department of the Interior (DOI) to temporarily pause issuing new oil and gas leases on federal lands and in offshore waters pending a review of the leasing program. By conducting a thorough analysis of the program, DOI could ensure that it is in the best interests of the American people and properly balances current and future interests in the use of public lands.

Senator Lummis (R-Wyo.) introduced an amendment to S. Con. Res. 14, the vehicle for President Biden's Build Back Better agenda, to permit the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund related to prohibiting efforts to pause the oil and gas leasing program. As a nonbinding amendment, the amendment did not carry the force of law and served only to urge the administration to end the leasing pause.

### **OUTCOME:**

On August 10, 2021, the Senate rejected the Lummis amendment 49-50. "Nay" was the pro-conservation vote.