~~ PETITION ~~

Companies tie up lands without producing energy or revenues.

The way the Interior Department manages publicly owned resources provides hidden subsidies to oil and gas companies through at least seven specific avenues:

- Below-market royalty rates. Royalty rates are only 12.5 percent, far lower than state and private land rates.
- Below-market rent. Oil and gas producers pay only a dollar and change *annually* for each acre leased.
- Low minimum-lease bids. At just $2 per acre at a sale, these bids allow oil and gas companies to purchase and tie up lands they do not intend to use. A meaningful bid would incentivize purchases where companies intend to generate energy and revenue for the American taxpayer.
- Inadequate reclamation bonds. These bonds should provide funding for cleaning up the damage to public lands from oil and gas development, but the funds required are nowhere near sufficient.
- Lengthy and lax lease suspensions. Federal leases are issued for ten years—longer than most leases issued by states or private parties—so the industry already has ample time to develop leased lands. The current system is simply providing even more ways to extend leases without revenue or development.
- Leasing of low-potential lands. These lands are less likely to be developed.
- Unjustified reinstatements of lapsed leases. Even after leases are cancelled due to failures to pay rent, it is relatively easy for companies to get them put back in place through a “reinstatement” process, giving them another way to continue to benefit from public lands without either developing energy or providing a return to taxpayers

----
Sign Here