

# POLLUTERS OVER PEOPLE 2.0:

## H.R. 6009 AND H.R. 1121



**Welcome to House Republicans' Polluters Over People 2.0!** These two bills are more shameless giveaways to oil and gas, even though Big Oil is *still* making record-shattering profits by taking billions in taxpayer-funded subsidies, price-gouging working families, and leaving the American people to shoulder the health, safety, climate, and financial consequences of their mess.

The U.S. is *already* the world's top producer of oil and gas; we clearly cannot simply drill our way to energy independence. Instead, we must transition to clean energy, which is cheaper, safer, and generated entirely here at home.

### **H.R. 6009 *Restoring American Energy Dominance Act*** **(Boebert, R-Colo.)**

**H.R. 6009 props up Big Oil's profits — at the continued expense of the American people.** The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) includes long overdue reforms to give taxpayers a fairer return for oil and gas produced on public lands, including increased royalty rates and other fiscal protections. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently proposed a rule to implement those reforms, increase minimum bond amounts to ensure oil and gas companies clean up their mess, and direct drilling away from sensitive places and low-potential lands. This bill would withdraw BLM's proposed rule.

**H.R. 6009 ignores the majority of Americans who want Big Oil to pay their fair share.** BLM's proposed rule has popular support across the West; 91% of Western voters want oil and gas companies, not taxpayers, to pay for cleaning up and reclaiming public lands after drilling. Prior to the IRA and BLM's proposed rule, federal onshore oil and gas royalty rates hadn't increased in more than 100 years, bonding levels hadn't increased in 60 years, and minimum bids and rents hadn't increased in more than 30 years.

**H.R. 6009 enshrines Big Oil's exploitation of American taxpayers into law for the foreseeable future.** This bill has language that attempts to prevent the current or any future administration from ever raising royalty rates, increasing bonding requirements, or implementing other fiscal reforms to protect taxpayers.

### **H.R. 1121 *Protecting American Energy Production Act*** **(Duncan, R-S.C.)**

**H.R. 1121 is an unnecessary ban on fracking bans that no one but Big Oil asked for.** This bill prohibits the president from declaring a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas (i.e., fracking) and expresses a sense of Congress that the regulation of fracking should stay in the hands of the states. To be clear, President Biden has made no indication that he will ban fracking.

**H.R. 1121 is unnecessarily restrictive—and potentially dangerous.** The president must have the full range of tools to protect our health, safety, and climate from the dangers of fracking.

- Fracking uses intense pressure to inject water, a propping agent (e.g., sand), and chemical additives into geologic formations. Many of these chemical additives, like methanol, ethylene glycol, and propargyl alcohol, are hazardous to human health, but significant data gaps and uncertainties remain about the impact of fracking on drinking water. Some states require the disclosure of the chemicals in fracking fluid, but many are unknown because they are considered "trade secrets."
- Fracking and fracking wastewater disposal causes earthquakes strong enough to damage property and cause injuries, often in states ill-equipped to deal with seismic activity.
- Like all fossil fuel extraction and production, fracking exacerbates the climate crisis.

**H.R. 1121 is a waste of time.** The bill language already passed as part of H.R. 1, the Polluters over People Act. And just like H.R. 1, this bill is dead on arrival in the Senate; there is no need to bring this language to the House floor again.