



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS' ALLIANCE AND THE NATIONAL STRIPPER WELL ASSOCIATION APPLAUD SECRETARY BURGUM, DOI, AND BLM FOR EXTENDING FEDERAL BONDING REQUIREMENTS**

**TULSA, OK** —The Domestic Energy Producers Alliance (DEPA) and the National Stripper Well Association (NSWA) today issued a joint statement thanking Secretary Doug Burgum, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for issuing a final rule extending the implementation of new federal oil and gas bonding requirements for an additional year.

This action provides much-needed regulatory certainty for America's small, independent oil and natural gas producers while the Department continues its review of the Bureau of Land Management's 2024 bonding rule through the ongoing Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) process.

"We are grateful for Secretary Burgum's leadership and for DOI and BLM recognizing the serious and immediate consequences these bonding requirements pose to small, family-owned producers," said Jerry Simmons, DEPA CEO/President. "Today's final rule is a prudent step that prevents unnecessary harm to rural communities, domestic energy production, and American energy affordability while the rulemaking process is allowed to fully play out."



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In November, DEPA and NSWA – along with 31 supporting state organizations – sent a letter to Secretary Burgum outlining the significant risks associated with allowing the 2024 bonding rule to take effect before completion of the NPRM. That rule eliminated nationwide bonding and increased state-level bond requirements from \$25,000 to \$500,000—an increase that would disproportionately impact small operators.

As outlined in that correspondence:

- Nearly **21,000 small oil and gas operators** would face a twenty-fold increase in bonding requirements.
- **Thousands of small producers** could be forced to shut down, resulting in the loss of **many thousands of jobs**.
- Rural communities would experience reduced tax revenues and strain on essential public services.
- The U.S. could lose up to:
  - **164,000 barrels of oil per day**
  - **1.4 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day**
  - **172,000 stripper oil and gas wells**
- Premature well closures could increase public financial exposure if wells are abandoned due to operator insolvency.

“Small, independent producers are the backbone of America’s energy system. They support rural economies, provide affordable energy, and play a critical role in maintaining domestic energy security. Extending the bonding deadline ensures these producers are not unfairly penalized before the federal government completes its review,” said Patrick Montalban, NSWA Board Chairman and owner of Montalban Oil and Gas, a small family-owned Montana company.



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DEPA and NSWA emphasized that allowing the NPRM process to conclude before enforcing sweeping new requirements aligns with sound regulatory practice and long-standing national energy policy goals focused on reliability, affordability, and domestic production.

“We appreciate the Administration’s willingness to listen and act,” Simmons concluded.

“Today’s decision reflects a commitment to balanced, responsible energy regulation and to the thousands of small businesses that keep America’s energy engine running.”

**About DEPA**

DEPA is a nationwide collaboration of 39 coalition associations – from California to West Virginia, Texas to Montana – representing individuals and companies engaged in domestic onshore oil and natural gas exploration and production. DEPA is a non-partisan association seeking common ground, and in common sense solutions to the challenges facing American oil and natural gas production.

**About NSWA**

Founded in 1934, the National Stripper Well Association is the only national organization solely dedicated to representing the interests of the nation’s smallest and most economically vulnerable oil and natural gas wells. With members in 30 states, NSWA advocates before Congress, the Administration, and federal agencies on behalf of the producers, owners, and operators of marginally producing wells. Its mission is to ensure that the unique needs of small, independent energy producers are heard and addressed. NSWA's diverse membership includes geologists, engineers, landmen, royalty owners, service providers, and financial professionals committed to the future of American energy.

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