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September 20, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Hearing to Examine Implementation of Clean Water Act Section 401 and S. 3303,  
the Water Quality Certification Improvement Act of 2018

Dear Chairman Barrasso:

On behalf of the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), thank you for your efforts to bring clarity to section 401 of the Clean Water Act through both your legislation and the committee hearing process.

IPAA's mission is to advocate for America's exploration and production segment of the oil and natural gas industry. Our goal is to ensure that members can develop and produce energy, which requires a robust, safe transportation system to deliver that energy to market.

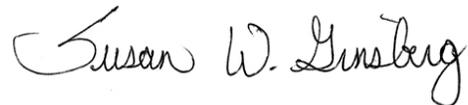
The United States is leading the world in natural gas production, producing 78.9 billion cubic feet per day in 2017. Even as natural gas production has increased, the United States has reduced its carbon footprint more than any other nation in the world. Energy-related carbon emissions in the United States hit a 25-year low in 2017, a fact that can be directly linked to increased natural gas use for power generation. Electricity generation has turned increasingly to natural gas as a preferred means of generating power, with benefits of reduced emissions, efficiency, a critical companion to increased reliance on renewable energy, and reduced costs to electricity consumers.

Owing to this increased use of clean, affordable natural gas, the United States is expanding its economy, creating new American manufacturing jobs, and protecting the environment by using energy more cleanly and efficiently than ever before. Today, as the world's leading energy superpower, the United States is now in the unique position to export this clean, reliable energy source to our friends and allies and improve life for people and developing nations around the world.

IPAA members have encouraged this demand with technology that has tapped America's abundant natural gas reserves, and they continue with efforts to meet this demand in a safe manner. Construction of much-needed pipeline capacity will be stifled without a reasonable way to stop the overreach by some state regulatory agencies, as outlined in testimony and the letter submitted for the record by the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America. S. 3303 provides such an approach.

IPAA appreciates your attention to this important issue. We request that this letter be submitted to the record for the August 16 legislative hearing on S. 3303.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan W. Ginsberg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'S' at the beginning.

Susan Ginsberg  
Vice President  
Crude Oil & Natural Gas Regulatory Affairs  
202-857-4728