



May 11, 2017

The Honorable James Lankford
Chairman
Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Lankford:

The American Exploration & Production Council ("AXPC") strongly supports the enactment of S. 584, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act and is most grateful to you and your subcommittee for your efforts in respect of the important objectives set forth in this proposed legislation.

AXPC is a national trade association representing 33 of America's largest and most active independent natural gas and crude oil exploration and production companies, each with considerable experience drilling, operating, and producing oil and natural gas on federal lands. AXPC members are "independent" in that their operations are limited to exploration for and production of oil and natural gas. Moreover, its members operate autonomously, unlike their fully integrated counterparts, which operate in additional segments of the energy business, such as downstream refining and marketing. AXPC members are leaders in developing and applying innovative and advanced technologies necessary to explore for and produce oil and natural gas, both offshore and onshore, from non-conventional sources.

While our members are not themselves small businesses, many of our suppliers are. The ability of the businesses to succeed is an important factor in the continued success of the members of AXPC. These small businesses are so very critical to the economic fabric of our nation and without this type of common sense legislation represented by S. 584, the companies run the very real risk of being unable to survive the seemingly ceaseless, and mostly senseless, barrage of regulations from Washington and its myriad regulatory agencies.

For the reasons stated above, we are supportive of the overall objective of S. 584 to improve the transparency of the regulatory process for small businesses and to ensure

that regulatory agencies properly and thoughtfully consider the impact of regulations on small businesses.

AXPC urges the passage of S. 584 and stands ready to assist in any way you believe we might be able to add value to this process.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, I can be reached via email at bthompson@axpc.us or by phone at 202-347-7529. Again, thank you for your good work on these and other issues.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "V. Bruce Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "V." and last name "Thompson" clearly distinguishable.

V. Bruce Thompson
President

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs