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American Exploration & Production Council Responds to President's Executive Order Setting Up An Interagency Working Group For the Development of Unconventional Natural Gas Resources

Washington, DC - The American Exploration & Production Council ("AXPC") today expressed appreciation for recognition by the Administration in its Executive Order establishing an interagency working group to coordinate federal policies with respect to the development of America's unconventional natural gas resources of the fact that "the states are the primary regulators of onshore oil and gas activities" and also expressed some concern that while well intended, the Order could result in increased federal regulation rather than better coordination with the state regulatory efforts.

In response to the President's Executive Order, AXPC's President, Bruce Thompson, said, "**While we support improved coordination of federal policies for the development of America's unconventional natural gas resources, we do not support the creation of another group that could become an additional source of efforts to federalize the regulation of unconventional natural gas development. Obviously, with 13 or more federal departments or agencies currently pushing efforts to regulate this effort, some coordination is necessary. Currently, the operations of our members are effectively and thoroughly regulated at the state level. The real test is whether or not this new group will, through better coordination with the states, serve to promote the continuation of safe, environmentally sound development of this resource as is currently the case or will it simply promote the expansion of duplicative federal regulation. We hope it is the former, as the importance of the continued development of America's unconventional natural gas resources cannot be overstated. "**

The American Exploration & Production Council (AXPC) represents 32 of the nation's leading independent natural gas and oil exploration and production companies. Our members safely provide the secure, domestic supplies of natural gas and oil America needs to heat its homes, to operate its farms and to fuel its economy. We are committed to doing what is right to ensure the abundant energy supplies in environmentally responsible ways. Learn more about AXPC at www.axpc.us.

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