



August 28, 2026

The Honorable Vince Fong
The Honorable David Valadao
The Honorable Tom McClintock
The Honorable James Gallagher
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

*Sent Via Email to: Vince.Fong@mail.house.gov; David.Valadao@mail.house.gov;
Tom.Mcclintock@mail.house.gov; James.Gallagher@mail.house.gov;*

**RE: California Energy Policies, Threats to National Security, Federal Intervention
Protecting the interests of California oil and gas mineral and royalty owners**

Dear Representatives Fong, Valadao, McClintock, and Gallagher:

Purpose

We appreciate your work with members of Congress and the Administration who are committed to reversing the damage caused by hostile energy policies and restoring American energy security. Those efforts present an important opportunity not only to expand domestic production, but also to protect California oil and gas mineral and royalty owners whose property rights and livelihoods have been harmed by state policy. We therefore strongly urge Congress and the Administration to ensure that any upcoming executive orders, legislation, or other energy policies safeguard private property rights, counter foreign interference in U.S. energy markets, and guarantee fair treatment for domestic oil and gas mineral and royalty owners and producers.

Founded in 1980, the National Association of Royalty Owners (NARO) is the only national organization representing solely and without compromise the interests of the estimated twelve million oil and gas royalty owners in the United States.

NARO-CA, the California chapter of the National Association of Royalty Owners, advocates for and defends the rights of the hundreds of thousands of oil and gas mineral and royalty owners across the state.

Founded in 1980, the National Association of Royalty Owners is the only national organization representing solely, and without compromise, oil and gas royalty owners' interests.

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In California, royalty and mineral owners have been especially harmed by Sacramento's punitive anti-oil policies. Royalty owners include farmers, ranchers, retirees, students, senior citizens and non-profits. Petroleum remains an integral part of our everyday lives in California, but because of politics, instead of supporting the royalty owners who are our fellow citizens, neighbors and friends, California buys its oil from corrupt regimes and countries which lack the strict regulations and standards under which production occurs here. These policies also create a serious threat to national security and the national supply chain.

Key Priorities and Recommendations

- **Protect Mineral Owners, especially in California:** Mineral owners on private land must receive strong federal protection. Executive orders, legislation and policies should not disproportionately favor federal lands and offshore development while ignoring or exacerbating harms to private oil and gas mineral and royalty owners. In California, laws such as SB 1137 (the 3,200-foot oil setback mandate) have effectively taken property without compensation, devastating family assets. NARO-CA is actively supporting legal challenges, including the federal lawsuit filed by Pacific Legal Foundation representing two Santa Barbara County NARO-CA mineral owner members, arguing these restrictions constitute an uncompensated regulatory taking of property in violation of the Fifth Amendment.
- **Preserve Fair Compensation:** If new drilling or production is opened or advanced through federal policy initiatives or government action, royalty owners must receive fair compensation. Consistent with eminent domain principles, the government has an obligation to ensure that private royalty owners are not deprived of economic benefit from policies that enable resource development on or affecting their property.
- **Address Foreign Influence:** Conduct a thorough investigation into and counter the activities of foreign governments and entities that fund anti-oil organizations to undermine U.S. energy security. Multiple investigations and reports have revealed millions of dollars flowing from CCP-linked organizations and foreign foundations to groups such as Earthjustice and the Rocky Mountain Institute. These funds support aggressive litigation, lobbying, and regulatory campaigns designed to halt domestic oil, gas, and mineral projects. This foreign influence directly threatens American energy independence and national security. Several state Attorney Generals have formally requested DOJ investigations into potential violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA).

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- **Create a Mineral & Royalty Owner Caucus in Congress:** Establish a dedicated caucus of oil and gas mineral and royalty owners in Congress focused exclusively on advocating for the interests of millions of American mineral and royalty owners, who are too often sidelined in national energy policy debates and decisions.
- **Protect Domestic Oil and Gas Producers:** Oil and gas mineral and royalty owners rely on producers to develop their minerals. We urge immediate action to protect domestic oil and gas producers from excessive regulatory burdens that undermine national security, energy dominance, and the property rights of American citizens. A vital component of energy security is our ability to produce domestic oil and gas. Without viable operators to preserve the value of these resources, the mineral rights held by millions of everyday Americans become worthless. Unfortunately, over the past few years, punitive regulations, fees, and compliance costs imposed upon producers—particularly in states like California—have forced many operators to shut in their wells or go out of business entirely. This regulatory overreach is the primary driver behind the steep decline in regional energy production, such as in California. Many of the businesses forced out of the market are small and mid-sized producers. These are often family-owned companies that have grown over generations, only to see their legacies and capital investments now destroyed by government policy. The best path forward for mineral and royalty owners, as well as for our national defense and energy security, is to ensure we have a robust and diverse ecosystem of small, mid-sized, and large producers capable of operating in regions with oil and gas reserves. Protecting these operators from overreaching regulations and prohibitive costs is essential to preserving the value of private property and ensuring American energy independence. We urge Congress and the Administration to advocate for legislative relief, streamlined permitting, and a balanced regulatory framework that allows our independent energy producers to thrive.

In Conclusion

Federal energy dominance and national security policies that focus exclusively on opening production on federal lands and offshore areas—while private lands remain heavily restricted by state regulations—will actively harm California royalty owners and undermine the overall goal. Policies, legislation and executive orders must explicitly affirm and support responsible production on private lands to protect property rights, secure royalty income for families, and achieve genuine American energy dominance.

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NARO-CA stands ready to serve as a collaborative resource to the White House and Congress. Let's prioritize property rights and work together to put American energy first.

Respectfully,



Edward S. Hazard

President



Eric Eisenhammer

Director of Public Affairs

Contact

Edward S. Hazard

President, NARO-CA

(209) 481-7005

ehazard57@gmail.com

Eric Eisenhammer

NARO-CA Director of Public Affairs

(916) 833-9276

eric@dauntlesscommunications.com