



RESOLUTION 16.051

Expressing Support For Proposed Legislation To Grant Indemnity Selections For State Trust Lands In Federal Conservation Areas

WHEREAS, at the Annual Business Meeting of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission ("IOGCC") held in Salt Lake City, Utah in May 2015, a representative from a body of land commissioners known as the Western States Land Commissioners Association ("WSLCA") made a presentation to the Public Lands Committee of IOGCC regarding State Trust Land Strategies and Opportunities for Collaboration; and

WHEREAS, the Public Lands Committee presentation discussed a key initiative of WSLCA to support federal legislation that would grant to states the right to select unappropriated federal public lands upon relinquishment to the United States of title to state trust lands located within federal conservation areas as a means of eliminating conflicts between state and federal land management within federal conservation areas; and

WHEREAS, lands transferred to state control could provide potential additional development areas for oil and gas development; and

WHEREAS, the need for additional legislative means for resolving problems created by the location of state trust lands inholdings inside federal conservation areas remains pressing; and

WHEREAS, there is pending legislation in Congress that has been developed through consultation and discussions with conservation groups, other governmental entities, and the public; and prior draft legislation proposals have been refined to take into account concerns and comments expressed by such groups; and

WHEREAS, IOGCC's mission to promote efficient recovery of domestic oil and natural gas resources correlates with WSLCA's initiative, and there is an opportunity to collaborate with WSCLA in support of legislative action to resolve the matter of state trust lands held within federal conservation areas; and

WHEREAS, IOGCC and its member states support legislative efforts to address this issue.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the IOGCC does hereby support and endorse legislative actions by Congress to remove state trust lands from within federal areas and select unappropriated federal lands in lieu, and further requests that the members of the congressional delegations of each IOGCC state take action as necessary to achieve this objective.