



January 15, 2014

Shawn Reese
Policy Director
Office of Governor Matt Mead
State Capitol
200 West 24th Street
Cheyenne WY 82002

Grant Black
Supervisor
Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission
2211 King Blvd
P.O. Box 2640
Casper, WY 82602

Dear Director Reese and Supervisor Black,

We support Governor Mead's efforts to aggressively attack the issue of orphan oil and gas wells in Wyoming. This is an issue that has languished for far too long creating an unnecessary threat to landowners, wildlife and the state's precious water resources. We believe the plan released by the Governor constitutes a good first step in this effort and include suggestions below on how this plan could be further improved going forward.

All agree that \$3 million is not adequate to completely solve a problem that, according to current estimates, may ultimately cost as much as \$32 million to complete. That said the plan Governor Mead has proposed is a down payment on a very important issue. A comprehensive and well-managed program would get the state on track toward clearing the orphan well backlog and it would ensure that current and future operators are held accountable to prevent this problem from happening again.

We commend Governor Mead, the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, and the Legislature for their attention to this persistent problem. We urge them to work with

