

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2602

October 27, 2011

INTERNET:
<http://baucus.senate.gov>

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, District of Columbia 20460-0001

Dear Administrator Jackson:

The United States is at a juncture in our energy economy. In the oil and gas sector in particular, new accessible domestic resources seem to materialize daily beneath our feet. The energy sector is a complex, global market, whose shifts have tremendous implications for our prosperity, our environment, and the balance of power. In Montana, we are experiencing one such shift in our front yard.

The oilfields in the Bakken Formation are booming. For several years now, Montanans have watched our neighbors in North Dakota live through the opportunities and challenges posed by the Bakken. Montanans themselves are actively exploring and producing in the same formation and adjacent formations as well. And we are gearing up for a changed future. A land of wheat, barley, and sugar beets is increasingly speckled with pumpjacks and "man camps."

As you know, your agency—along with many state agencies—has a critical role in upcoming rulemaking to ensure that oil and gas production is done safely. I am confident you will be able to accomplish that. We can have both a clean environment and secure domestic fuel. We can have both robust production and clean air and water.

I have heard from many Montanans in recent months involved in the growth of oil and gas development who are concerned about what EPA regulation might mean and eager to welcome you to Montana. In that spirit, I would like to invite you to join me at your convenience in eastern Montana to witness the shift on the ground and to visit with the many Montanans employed in this important sector.

I appreciate your continued outreach to rural communities, particularly those in my home state, and I look forward to your response. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

