



RESOLUTION 17.101

In Support of a Cooperative Federalism Initiative

WHEREAS, the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) represents the governors of thirty-one oil and gas producing States; and

WHEREAS, States have been the principal regulatory authority for domestic onshore oil and natural gas production for more than 80 years; and

WHEREAS, numerous Federal agencies are engaged in establishing and adopting regulatory standards dealing with public health and safety and environmental issues with regard to the oil and natural gas industry; and

WHEREAS, the States recognize the importance of involving and coordinating efforts with those federal agencies engaged in oil and natural gas regulation to limit regulatory duplication, streamline federal regulatory mandates and, where appropriate, transfer those regulatory authorities to the States; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government recognizes the key leadership role of States in continuous regulatory improvement of the oil and natural gas programs; and

WHEREAS, the inherent flexibility and efficiency of State programs offer the opportunity to better manage oil and gas resources development in cooperation with federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the appropriate funding support from the Federal government, the States could undertake a more cooperative role with Federal agencies in administering those federal programs not transferred to the States;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that member states of the IOGCC agree to pursue a program of cooperative federalism to work closely with agencies of the Federal Government, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the Department of Interior and others to pursue regulatory improvement and innovation; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these efforts concentrate on management of public lands, environmental protection, increasing technical capacity for state regulators, resource conservation and workforce development; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the IOGCC pursues relationships within Congress to further efforts to centralize regulatory responsibilities within State government for oil and gas exploration and production operations; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the IOGCC appoint teams of leaders interested in pursuing a path of cooperative federalism with the ultimate, equally important goals of improved environmental protection and maximized oil and natural gas recovery.



ACTION PLAN FOR RESOLUTION 17.101

In Support of Cooperative Federalism Initiative

1. The IOGCC staff is directed to develop a comprehensive work plan to support an IOGCC Coalition of Cooperative Federalism, including securing appropriate leadership for individual elements of areas of concentration identified within the Resolution.
2. Staff will develop outreach efforts to Congressional offices, entities and individuals interested in pursuing the goals of cooperative federalism.
3. Staff will facilitate contacts between the IOGCC and various Federal agencies to focus on common interest with an end goal of centralizing within State government, to the extent possible, the regulation of oil and natural gas onshore the United States.
4. Work products should include proposing state or federal legislative actions, generating white papers, identifying and pursuing funding opportunities, performing regulatory assessments and sponsoring fact-finding efforts.
5. The Executive Director is to report regularly to the Commission on progress towards stated goals.