Gov. Henry: IOGCC An Important Voice in Domestic Energy Policy Debate

In remarks to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, Gov. Brad Henry, the organization's chairman, discussed his top priorities for 2009 which include the utilization of underdeveloped domestic oil and natural gas resources, energy education, carbon sequestration policy development, and water issues.

Santa Fe, NM (PRWEB) November 17, 2008 -- In a speech to Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) Annual Meeting participants today, incoming 2009 IOGCC Chairman Gov. Brad Henry emphasized that domestic production of crude oil and natural gas is indispensable if the United States has any serious hope of shaking off the addiction to foreign oil.

While citing the importance that the country continue on its path to develop alternative energy sources such as solar, wind and biofuels, Henry stated that the U.S. will need every "arrow in our quiver" to face the challenges of energy production in this century and that "the goal of true energy independence is far too complex to believe that renewable sources alone will be enough."

In this vein, he remains confident that the 38-states of the IOGCC have a real opportunity to help set the parameters of discussion in the debate surrounding the development of comprehensive energy policy solutions.

The governor also outlined his key initiatives that he hopes to pursue during his year as chairman. The initiatives include cooperating with the U.S. Department of Energy to utilize underdeveloped resources within key U.S. basins that are essential to a sound energy future.

In addition, Henry outlined that he will ramp up energy education efforts to important public constituencies in the name of educating those who have little knowledge of the importance of domestic energy resources.

"We are on the cusp of momentous debate and discussion on the federal level, and it is critical and absolutely vital that the IOGCC lend its experience and expertise to the mix," said Henry. "Regulations aimed at environmental protection are important and appropriate, but they cannot come at the expense of handcuffing an industry that must enhance domestic oil and gas production. Nowhere is this balancing act more important than in matters of hydraulic fracturing and carbon sequestration."

The governor acknowledged the IOGCC's current work in these areas; however, stressed that more must be done by the states to aid in the development of effective carbon sequestration policies and to focus on water issues and the relationship between energy production and future water supply.

"We have a lot of work to do, but let me tell you this, the IOGCC is up to the task at hand," said Henry.

The Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission is a 38-state oil and natural gas compact whose mission is to promote the conservation and efficient recovery of domestic oil and natural gas resources. For more information, log on to www.iogcc.state.ok.us.

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