



June 27, 2017

Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Attn: Blake Schindler
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 1219, 2017-2018 Congress, "To provide for stability of title to certain land in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes"

Dear Senator Cassidy:

I write as Executive Director of the National Association of Royalty Owners ("NARO"). NARO represents mineral and royalty owners across the United States as well as within Louisiana through the local state chapter chartered by NARO. NARO is committed to providing education, political action and other resources to its members in order preserve and protect the private property mineral and royalty interests of its members.

NARO fully supports S. 1219, which is intended "[t]o provide for stability of title to certain lands in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes". Upon reviewing the historical record that led to the introduction of this resolution, NARO was disturbed to learn that the Federal Government, through its Bureau of Land Management ("BLM"), claims ownership of mineral rights which have been held under private title for over a century. The BLM's claim is even more troubling due to what appears to be a failure to give proper notice of its intent to assert title to these interests to the private owners of record who were clearly impacted by its decision. An endorsement of this tactic would allow the Federal Government to claim ownership of private mineral and royalty interests with nothing more than an obscure notice buried deep in the thousands of pages comprising the Federal Register.

The BLM's claim, and the procedure employed to assert it, will affect far more than just the private owners of record having a stake in the outcome of this dispute. It will affect all private enterprises having an interest in these minerals. These interests include a wide range of commercial and economic interests such as banking and exploration companies.

The legislative solution proposed by S.1219 provides the most cost-efficient solution to the issue presented and will avoid the time and expense of inevitable litigation if this dispute is not resolved by the passage of this resolution. For these reasons, NARO fully supports. 1219.

Sincerely,

Jerry Simmons, Executive Director