



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**

Steelgram

Immediate Attention Requested

February 8, 2017

**To: Members of the U.S. Senate
Senate staff assigned to steel and/or energy issues**

Support H.J.Res. 36 to Disapprove the BLM Venting and Flaring Rule

Background

The production of steel is energy intensive, and the industry consumes substantial amounts of electricity, natural gas, and coal and coke to make its products. The domestic steel industry has made substantial gains in reducing its energy usage, as well as its environmental footprint, over the last two decades, reducing its energy intensity by 32 percent since 1990 and reducing its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions intensity by 37 percent over the same time period.

The availability and reliability of supplies of these energy sources is essential to the domestic industry's international competitiveness, especially as steelmakers in competitor nations receive subsidized energy. Additionally, expanded production of domestic oil and natural gas provides key markets for steel pipe and tube products that are essential to the production, distribution, transmission, and storage of these types of energy.

Situation

On November 15, 2016, the Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a duplicative regulation regarding oil and gas production on BLM federal lands. Several states have already enacted laws requiring emissions reductions on oil and gas activities that address many of the objectives of the BLM rule. This would be a one-size-fits-all approach from the federal government that will almost certainly hinder the economic and energy benefits we are seeing from domestic oil and gas production. AISI has consistently expressed concerns that the rule would limit the production of domestic oil and natural gas, which would have negative effects on energy intensive industries, including steel manufacturers.

H.J. Res 36 would overturn the BLM regulation under the Congressional Review Act. It passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 221-191 on February 3, and is scheduled to be considered by the full Senate soon.

Request

AISI urges all members of the Senate to support H.J. Res 36 when it is considered on the floor in the coming days. Doing so will help uphold the international competitiveness of the domestic steel industry by maintaining an affordable and reliable supply of electricity, and providing additional markets for key steel products.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Gibson".

Thomas J. Gibson
President and CEO
American Iron and Steel Institute