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(date of mailing)

The Honorable Christopher Bond
United States Senate
274 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bond,

We are advised by the non-profit organization known as STRONGER that it is seeking a \$300,000 line item appropriation in the budget handled by the Senate subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs, Housing and Urban Development. Since you chair this committee, we wanted you to be aware of the enthusiastic support of the nation's oil and natural gas producing states for this funding. STRONGER, or State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Environmental Regulations, has the support of the American Petroleum Institute, which assists in the funding of the organization.

The Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) developed the "state review" process in 1991. Initially it was funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. EPA has been involved with the process and urged creation of an organization independent of the states, which has evolved into the STRONGER organization.

Because of EPA's role in forming STRONGER and its strong, ongoing involvement with the organization, it is appropriate that the government play a part in funding this important work.

If you have questions regarding the importance of the state review process, the role of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission or the tremendous value of this program, please have your staff call upon IOGCC Executive Director Christine Hansen at (405) 525-3556, extension 200, or e-mail her at c.hansen@iogcc.state.ok.us.

Sincerely,

Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico
Chairman
Interstate Oil and Gas
Compact Commission

Frank Murkowski
Governor of Alaska
Chairman-Elect
Interstate Oil and Gas
Compact Commission

John Hoeven
Governor of North Dakota
Former Chairman
Interstate Oil and Gas
Compact Commission