



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS' ALLIANCE ENDORSES
H.R. 34, THE LASSO ACT, TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY
AND UNLOCK AMERICA'S ENERGY POTENTIAL**

TULSA, OK —The Domestic Energy Producers' Alliance (DEPA) proudly announces its full support for H.R. 34, the *Land and Social Security Optimization (LASSO) Act*, introduced by Congressman Paul Gosar. This forward-looking legislation offers a commonsense solution to two urgent national priorities:

1. ensuring the solvency of Social Security and
2. expanding responsible energy development on America's federal lands.

The LASSO Act requires that **10 percent of all revenue generated from lands managed by the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service—including submerged lands on the Outer Continental Shelf—be deposited directly into the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) Trust Fund**. This trust fund is the primary Social Security fund that pays benefits to retired workers and their families.

“This is exactly the type of smart, pro-growth policy our country needs,” said DEPA President and CEO Jerry Simmons. “The LASSO Act harnesses the economic potential of our public lands to help secure the future of Social Security. By linking domestic resource development to retirement security, this bill creates powerful incentives to support American energy production and ensure our seniors get the benefits they've earned.”

FUNDING SOCIAL SECURITY THROUGH AMERICAN RESOURCES

Without action, the OASI Trust Fund faces an estimated depletion by **2033**, at which point the government would only be able to pay out **approximately 77%** of scheduled benefits. The **FY 2023 shortfall alone was \$70.4 billion.**

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Under H.R. 34, public lands—including onshore and offshore oil and gas operations, mineral development, timber harvesting, and grazing—would contribute directly to closing that gap. In fact, if the bill had been enacted in FY 2023, **at least \$2 billion** could have been deposited into the trust fund from existing royalties and receipts.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the LASSO Act is projected to **add \$15 billion to the OASI Trust Fund over the next decade**, bolstering the retirement benefits of millions of Americans without raising taxes or cutting benefits.

REDIRECTING ROYALTIES FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

Currently, most royalties and revenues from federal land development are deposited into the U.S. Treasury's general fund, where they are spent without any specific connection to public programs. The LASSO Act reimagines this model by **directing a portion of these funds to serve a tangible, high-priority public purpose: safeguarding Social Security.**

This bill not only supports retirees—it also promotes American energy independence and economic development. As energy producers face increasing regulatory burdens and politically motivated land withdrawals, H.R. 34 provides a strong counterbalance by rewarding productive use of federal lands.

A CLEAR PATH FORWARD

The LASSO Act disincentivizes excessive federal land withdrawals—such as the Biden administration's removal of **625 million acres of federal waters from future oil and gas leasing**—and instead champions policies that generate revenue, energy, and jobs.

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“We believe in the power of responsible resource development to improve lives,” Simmons added. “From the oil fields of Texas to the offshore platforms in the Gulf, America’s energy producers stand ready to deliver value to the American people—not just through reliable energy, but through direct contributions to critical programs like Social Security.”

DEPA urges Congress to act swiftly on H.R. 34 to preserve Social Security, promote energy security, and restore balance to the management of our public lands.

About DEPA

DEPA is a nationwide collaboration of 39 coalition associations – from California to West Virginia, Texas to Montana – representing individuals and companies engaged in domestic onshore oil and natural gas exploration and production. DEPA is a non-partisan association seeking common ground, and in common sense solutions to the challenges facing American oil and natural gas production.

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