Bipartisan Policy Center

Economic Opportunities from Oil and Gas Well Remediation

Overview of the REGROW Act

The bipartisan Revive Economic Growth and Reclaim Orphaned Wells Act was introduced by Sens. Luján (D-NM) and Cramer (R-ND) and Reps. Fletcher (D-TX) and Armstrong (R-ND) to fund the remediation of orphaned oil and gas wells across the country. The provisions are in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Orphaned wells are defined as any oil or gas well without a legally responsible entity to properly plug the wells or restore the site.[1] Leaks from orphaned wells can contaminate groundwater and release methane that contributes to climate change. Remediating orphaned wells can protect human and environmental health, generate new jobs, and create opportunities for future investment in these abandoned sites.

The energy sector experienced significant jobs losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing economic recession. This bill would support the creation of new jobs in the sector while mitigating environmental and public health risks.

BPC assessed the economic impacts of investing in the remediation of oil and gas wells as part of a broader energy and infrastructure economic modeling analysis.[2] The following results are based on the level of investment specified in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

1 https://www.aaas.org/programs/epi-center/management-of-wells

2 https://decarbamerica.org/technical-results/

National Economic Impact:

Support over 10,000 jobs* per year

EMPLOYMENT

Contribute $1.3 billion per year to GDP

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

State	Average Annual Jobs* Supported	Average Annual Contribution to GDP
Alabama	84	$8,902,783
Alaska	13	$2,181,817
Arizona	129	$14,876,481
Arkansas	56	$5,703,815
California	804	$132,431,676
Colorado	122	$16,141,230
Connecticut	78	$12,662,369
Delaware	20	$3,386,555
Dist. of Col.	32	$5,052,022
Florida	416	$46,776,279
Georgia	201	$26,579,377
Hawaii	30	$3,862,311
Idaho	33	$3,380,068
Illinois	549	$72,872,831
Indiana	140	$16,721,392
Iowa	68	$8,239,846
Kansas	421	$51,716,904
Kentucky	924	$112,346,383
Louisiana	338	$42,091,717
Maine	27	$2,722,928
Maryland	117	$15,934,419
Massachusetts	170	$25,398,757
Michigan	199	$23,318,007
Minnesota	133	$16,683,541
Mississippi	48	$4,563,171
Missouri	126	$14,050,508

State	Average Annual Jobs* Supported	Average Annual Contribution to GDP
Montana	20	$2,065,912
Nebraska	44	$5,359,018
Nevada	67	$8,121,584
New Hampshire	30	$3,799,272
New Jersey	190	$27,948,262
New Mexico	34	$3,746,519
New York	556	$91,933,499
North Carolina	197	$24,040,903
North Dakota	17	$2,242,844
Ohio	252	$30,924,448
Oklahoma	155	$19,126,205
Oregon	86	$10,205,991
Pennsylvania	831	$103,447,844
Rhode Island	23	$2,575,633
South Carolina	98	$10,331,105
South Dakota	18	$2,301,445
Tennessee	140	$16,391,897
Texas	961	$128,899,406
Utah	65	$7,649,470
Vermont	14	$1,388,909
Virginia	170	$21,132,657
Washington	150	$23,519,037
West Virginia	322	$39,456,492
Wisconsin	132	$14,990,235
Wyoming	205	$25,588,726

*includes direct, indirect, and induced jobs

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