

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2023

Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Newland:

We write to you regarding the proposed rule entitled “Leasing of Osage Reservation Lands for Oil and Gas Mining.”¹ As drafted, this would negatively impact all headright owners’ ability to utilize their own resources on their own land. We ask for a delay in the implementation of the rules, as well as increased consultation with the Osage Minerals Council, the Osage Nation, and producers within the estate.

As you know, the relationship between the Osage Minerals Council, the Osage Nation, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is unique. As such, any change(s) in the management of the Osage Mineral Estate should be a collaborative process, and involve extensive consultation with the Osage Minerals Council, and other appropriate stakeholders. Absent additional consultation, there will continue to be disagreement between all parties involved, and the BIA.

The Osage Minerals Council has repeatedly expressed the need for new regulations to benefit the Osage Mineral Estate, and headright holders, while balancing the responsibilities of BIA as the trustee of the estate. Additional consultation efforts will provide an opportunity to reset that relationship, and find the best solution.

We do appreciate your immediate willingness to work with members of the Osage Nation, and the Osage Minerals Council, on this issue, ask that you continue your discussions regarding the impact(s) of this proposed rule, and seek an amicable path forward.

We request that you delay implementation of the proposed CFR, reconsider this overly complicated rule. We recognize this is not a simple task, and we ask that you continue to keep us apprised of your efforts. Additionally, please consider our staff members as a resource moving forward.

Sincerely,



James Lankford
United States Senator



Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
United States Senator

¹ See, 25 CFR Part 226 (RIN 1076-AF59).