Vitter and Cassidy are lead witnesses at New Orleans energy hearing

WASHINGTON – Louisiana’s two Republican senators, David Vitter and Bill Cassidy, are the lead witnesses as the House Natural Resources Committee holds a hearing Tuesday in New Orleans on how current federal polices impact current and future oil and natural gas development in the Gulf of Mexico.

The hearing, which begins 9 a.m. September 15 at the Louisiana Supreme Court, 400 Royal Street, is expected to generate lots of comments from committee members and witnesses, including Vitter and Cassidy, that the Obama administration is discouraging oil and gas development and thereby missing an opportunity to make the United States more energy independent and produce jobs.
No Natural Resources Committee Democrats, many of whom support the Obama administration’s energy regulatory policies or argue that they aren't strong enough, are scheduled to attend the hearing.

In addition to Vitter and Cassidy, other scheduled witnesses are Lars Herbst, regional director for the Gulf of Mexico Outer Contingent Shelf region of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement; Joe Leimkuhler, vice president of drilling at LLOG exploration Company; Joseph Mason, a banking professor at LSU and a senior fellow at the Wharton School; Lori Davis, president of RIG-CHEM and Jonathan Henderson, manager of Gulf of Mexico Field Operations for the Gulf Restoration Network.

Republicans say that the witnesses represent a variety of views on oil and gas development.

Louisiana Republican House members, and members of the committee, have criticized Obama administration policies, suggesting, for example, that a well control rule has the potential to hinder future growth in the Gulf.

"This administration's energy policy appears to have two objectives: cause Louisianans to lose their jobs and continue our dependence on foreign oil," said Rep. Garret Graves, R-Baton Rouge, a member of the committee. "We have already been through the moratorium and permitorium where federal government shutdown the Gulf of Mexico's energy fields. Now they have posed illogical regulations on the offshore industry that will result in less production, more supply boats tied up and more people losing their energy jobs."

The panel’s chairman, Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, recently criticized President Barack Obama for advocating more efforts to deal with climate change during his appearance in New Orleans last month to mark the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

Democrats on the committee say Republicans are too quick to accept the views of the oil and gas industry, failing to objectively consider whether additional safety steps are needed for the oil and gas industry since the 2010 BP oil spill, whether increased production makes sense given current robust supplies and the risks of climate change to flood-prone areas, especially Louisiana.

Democratic staffers for the Natural Resources Committee said that the most likely Democrat to attend the hearing would have been Rep. Alan Lowenthal, the party’s top member on the the committee’s Energy and Mineral Resources subcommittee. But he’s likely to be with his family in California observing the 2nd day of the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah, the staffers said.

Louisiana has two members of the Natural Resources Committee: Graves and Rep. John Fleming, R-Minden.
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Nola.com

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US Merchant Mariner  Sep 15, 2015
How about turning our newly expanded oil and gas production into jobs for the U.S. citizens.....

Congress looking to lift the US oil export ban, U.S. produced LNG to be exported...Will any of this happen on U.S. built ships, crewed with U.S. citizens? This is what these two clowns need to be talking about - JOBS

Avondale shipyard just closed down and is up for sale. Time to revitalize the U.S. maritime industry,


balize
what happened to Cassidy's flagrant payroll fraud at Earl K Long?
it violated the letter and spirit of the criminal statute.
did the TP get nudged after initially reporting it correctly?
please follow up

RunOneNola
@balize ...... Cassidy like others politicians live by exemption rules, always exempt from scrutiny, tough or sensitive questions, rarely accountable of wrongdoing.

Dalida
@balize They run grotesque photo as punishment.

Bow2UrMaster
The US Government. Stupid people doing stupid things for stupid reasons with absolutely zero consequences for the results of their stupidity.

emirofalgiers
It's payback time and the masters are yanking the chains!!

Dgovern
With gas at $2 a gallon, it seems the oil giants are doing a fine job of their own cutting production and cost. But I'm sure they'll still somehow find a way to make that Obama's fault. I'm starting to wonder if they really wanted that $2 gas they were talking about in Obama's first election.

Heath Walker
Trying to put all of our energy eggs in one basket only solidifies our future failure. Our elected representatives have whored themselves to money (and some to actual whores). We don’t need them to sell us snake oil, we need to stop allowing them to be elected based on empty promises of ending gay marriage and abortion. We need Representatives that are truly concerned about our collective futures, not their pockets by way of faking concern for our souls.

RunOneNola
Sep 14, 2015
Vitter and Cassidy in show n tell mode for media attention. Production reached an all time high in America as indicated by V’man post below. The rig count in North America was booming, and US production increased to an all time high 2014. Many US rigs are being stacked or operationally off hire in America while Saudi Arabia increases the amount of rigs working to increase production. Establishing US as an exporter puts us on a more equal playing field with Saudi, major OPEC nations.

Vitruvianman
Sep 14, 2015
Hey look another sham hearing. Different views? Hahaha. Sure buddy. We are hindering growth? How? Fact is that were are producing more oil and gas then we ever have in the last 40 years and our independence on foreign oil is the lowest in over 30 years? http://www.cnbc.com/2015/05/28/us-oil-production-at-43-year-high-as-opec-prepares-to-meet.html

"United States domestic production has nearly doubled over the last six years,"http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/business/energy-environment/oil-prices.html?_r=0

Rigs are falling because they don’t need as many rigs now to do the job. One new rig can do what used to take two or three rigs. The rigs are becoming more productive. We haven’t seen a fall from production, in fact the opposite has been true. http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-02-13/this-chart-shows-why-the-number-of-oil-rigs-may-not-matter-anymore

These guys now want to export oil because it is and always will be about the money. Republicans are the most BS people on the planet. They sell snake oil 24/7. They NEVER say what is the real agenda but instead always push some lie that it is about helping average folks. It’s NEVER about that. It is ALWAYS about how do we make the rich even richer. It is that simple.

Big oil want that money. They want to start selling our oil to other high bidders. It is that simple. Republicans won’t come out and say it because they never reveal their true agenda

Oil industry is dooming itself. They are producing more and more oil and gas and it is having an affect on the industry as demand goes down as well. "On the demand side, the economies of Europe and developing countries are weakening and vehicles are becoming more energy-efficient. So demand for fuel is lagging a bit."http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/business/energy-environment/oil-prices.html?_r=0

Oil companies have been in the luxury of ridiculous oil prices per barrel. Instead of knowing that it was inflated and preparing for when it came down, they got greedy and took no precautions even as green energy is taking off.

So now they are laying people off because they can no longer make their ridiculous profits because price of oil has dropped. I don’t understand why workers blame govt when they should be blaming their incompetent employers for thinking they could ride the rainbow forever.

Did they really think the price of oil would remain over $100 per barrel forever? History tells you that isn’t true. And with wind and solar energy becoming more and more prevalent, anyone with a brain can see that the demand for oil will start to slowly drop as the decades roll by.

NetherEZ
Sep 14, 2015

@Vitruvianman  Give 'em hell.
Far too many people don’t see that the fall of America is being caused more by the greed of the U.S. form of Capitalism and the corporations who deal in profiteering than by the government.

Exxon, of which I owned stock in until their dirty dealings in the Exxon Valdez disaster, is worth around half a TRILLION dollars and their go to response in an economic downturn is to cut employees.

Anyone who can’t see why this happens with a corporation that is worth so much money is either willfully or ignorantly blind.

LA27
Sep 14, 2015
I guess Vitter and Cassidy will talk at length about how we should continue to use taxpayer money to subsidize oil companies and cut education funding.

coldboudin
Sep 14, 2015
@LA27 the oil companies get no cash subsidies, they get the same tax breaks as any other mining/manufacturing does.


Compare the $30 Billion + in taxes Exxon/Mobil pays compared to General Motors who pays ZERO thanks to the obama administrations special bankruptcy protections given to GM which allowed them to carry over ten years of losses from the old GM to the new GM. First time in American history that a corporation was allowed to do that.

http://247wallst.com/special-report/2014/01/08/companies-paying-the-most-taxes/

neverleaving504
Sep 14, 2015
@coldboudin @LA27
Your first source is the American Petroleum Institute and you should read the entirety of your second. Taxes cited are total tax liability, not U.S tax liability.

And you could find legitimate information on subsidies to oil and gas, but that wouldn’t suit your agenda.

coldboudin
Sep 14, 2015
@neverleaving504 You find the subsidies and post them if they bother you so much.

coldboudin
Sep 14, 2015
@neverleaving504 The tax amounts cited in the link are what the companies paid in America.

mcp7431
Sep 14, 2015
The fossil fuel business is, ultimately, a dead end game. renewable power is getting cheaper by the minute.
@mcp7431 Take away the subsidies for renewable power and it fades away. If the federal government held the wind power industry to the same standards as the oil industry and it would be broke already as it could not afford the fines for killing birds including American Eagles. Oil companies are charged for every bird killed.

Heath Walker Sep 14, 2015
@coldboudin @mcp7431 which would explain why Germany, a country that gets less sun than we do, has already achieved producing over 100% of their energy needs with wind & solar. …. right? Your talking point is outdated.

1 Like Reply

coldboudin Sep 14, 2015
@Heath Walker Why do you lie? How can they produce 100% when their record is 78% which happened once. Even your thinkprogress crap claims only 78%.

Germany’s transition from coal- and oil-fired power to carbon-free electricity hit a new milestone on July 25 when solar, wind, and other sources of renewable energy met 78 percent of the day’s energy demand.

That beat the old record of 74 percent, made in May 2014, according to Craig Morris, a journalist who has covered Germany’s energy scene for more than a decade.

Helping set the record was an unusual weather pattern that brought heavy winds where most of the nation’s wind turbines are located. As the turbines generated more power, utilities ramped down coal- and gas-fired power plants.


Like Reply

neverleaving504 Sep 14, 2015
If Obama is the one that is missing the opportunity to make America energy independent, then why are these guys pushing so hard to allow the US to export production?

2 Like Reply

coldboudin Sep 14, 2015
@neverleaving504 If we could export oil, it would put a lot of Americans back to work.

1 Like Reply

neverleaving504 Sep 14, 2015
@coldboudin @neverleaving504
Well then drop the myth of wanting energy independence. Selling off what we have now of OUR country's oil to meet the quarterly goals of foreign owned oil companies is bad for our country's longterm supply. I don’t think our exporting oil will help the price of oil, which is why the rig count continues to drop.

1 Like Reply

coldboudin Sep 14, 2015
@neverleaving504 Why are you against America participating in a global economy? Should we ban all exports and imports from other countries?
That’s a rather large leap isn’t it? I think it is short sighted to sell off our nations finite resources to the highest bidder. Until we have more sustainable alternatives, it makes no sense to sell our reserves to the Chinese so they can sell it back to us as plastic crap at Walmart. We will need that oil. The real problem with our economy is that corporations are completely unable to look past the next quarterly report.

coldboudin
Sep 14, 2015
@neverleaving504 What would America look like today if we were not able to import oil for the last 100 years? What kind of horse would you be riding?

neverleaving504
Sep 14, 2015
@coldboudin @neverleaving504

Where do you find me saying that we shouldn’t have imported oil?

Don’t bother to respond, there is a certain panache to your responses that are too familiar.

And I got rid of my truck after the oil spill.

CinnamonGirl
Sep 14, 2015
Democrats aren’t participating because it sounds like a witch hunt to vilify Democrats.

Republicans, why do you rail against "out of control" federal spending but waste money like this? Hypocrisy in action and senseless in-fighting accomplishing nothing but using our tax dollars to attack political opponents.

dgovern
Sep 14, 2015
This is the stuff their "clients" pay them for. They’re not representing the people here, unless you’re talking about the "corporation" people, who may or may not even be American. So I guess it’s OK to suck America dry as long as they don’t come here, but of course we’re not talking about the people that actually need help.

coldboudin
Sep 14, 2015
Why aren’t the democrats in the committee coming to the meeting? Too lazy, or scared of the out of control crime in NOLA?

CJ Morris
Sep 14, 2015
@coldboudin I think you have to be asked to testify... apparently this is a rigged deal.

coldboudin
Sep 14, 2015
@CJ Morris Nope, they just don’t want to come, can’t blame them I wouldn’t go to NOLA either.

No Natural Resources Committee Democrats, many of whom support the Obama administration’s energy regulatory policies or argue that they aren’t strong enough, are scheduled to attend the hearing.

dalida
Sep 14, 2015
This is absurd show boating. Senators are not proper "witnesses."
youandme504

"Louisiana Republican House members, and members of the committee, have criticized Obama administration policies, suggesting, for example, that a well control rule has the potential to hinder future growth in the Gulf."

Was this well control ruled implemented after the explosion a few years ago?

Bruce Alpert, NOLA.com | Times-Picayune

@youandme504 After the BP spill:

Chalmette02

God these guys are thick. How about these guys have a hearing on the Saudi oil war that is going on right now? That is what is really threatening energy independence.

lacombe57

"Republicans say that the witnesses represent a variety of views on oil and gas development” What the really mean is that the witnesses represent the Oil and Gas industry.

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