



August 12, 2019

by email to Suzanne at [suzanna.hyatt@la.gov](mailto:suzanna.hyatt@la.gov)

and [Jamie.Manuel@la.gov](mailto:Jamie.Manuel@la.gov)

**To: Louisiana State Mineral and Energy Board  
Office of Mineral Resources**

Re: August 2019 Mineral Board Meeting

By this correspondence we would like to adopt the comments made by Cynthia Nicholson and Peck Hayne in their Memorandum dated August 8, 2019 ("Memorandum") addressing the proposed revisions to the State's oil and gas lease form as reflected in the July 31<sup>st</sup> version. We support these comments and reiterate that while it may be appropriate to update the State Lease form as to certain matters, we strongly urge the Board not to make the lease form more onerous to lessees. Given the environmental and litigation climate in Louisiana, it is difficult to encourage companies to drill wells here in Louisiana and we suggest that the Board needs to send a message to these companies that the Board will be fair and reasonable.

As you are aware, like never before Louisiana competes with other states for investments in oil/gas exploration and development and we are losing that battle at the present time due the difficulties that operators face in Louisiana. The restrictions imposed upon operators, and the constant threat of litigation, has caused many oil and gas companies to focus their exploration efforts in more operator-friendly states. Imposing more restrictions on our ability to economically produce natural resources from the state will only make matters worse.

Please advise should you have any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William O'Neal", is written over a horizontal line.

William O'Neal  
Land Manager