



The Saga of Lil' Oil

What are we gonna do when the well runs dry? That's the question I have been asking myself a lot lately. We all know that these wonderful mineral assets of ours are finite; and due to this fact, we have been provided a reasonable depletion allowance from the IRS for many years. Now, under the administration's budget proposal, this allowance would be taken away. These days it's kinda like the Drysdales being bailed out and the Clampetts going through foreclosure.

It appears that the folks in Washington don't understand that not all oil is "Big Oil." Most royalty owners see a fairly small income from their production, but those checks can make all the difference as to whether the bills get paid or not. I don't know anyone in the oil and gas royalty community that would not be seriously affected by this development. It is a situation that needs action...by all of us. If we are to have any chance at swaying this administration and Congress, we have to have a voice that is heard loud and clear.

Our members in the National Legislative Council are looking at this issue as this letter is being written. There have been a number of great ideas that have been presented

but we need much more input from you, the rank and file of this organization. The members of the NLC are so few and everyone's incomes are so greatly reduced that we simply need more people, more ideas and more money.

So, I am asking everyone in this organization to get involved somehow. You could write your congressmen, the president, share ideas with your staff here at NARO, or join the NLC and go to Washington with our message.

This is going to be an uphill battle all the way, folks. If we don't get a good start on it and prepare to follow through with whatever comes -- well, we don't really stand much of a chance at beating this. The powers-that-be see "Big Oil" (and by extension, even 'lil' oil') as the enemy of the planet. We know better. We know how difficult and how long it will take to get any kind of alternative energy up and running in such a manner as to replace fossil fuels as our primary source of energy.

This is not simply about our paychecks. It is about our security as nation. As these government powers go after our depletion allowance, they are also attempting to rip apart our domestic producers' ability to continue to supply this country with the production it needs in order to survive.

This isn't just about losing the cement pond, either

-- Jeff Miller, NARO President.