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Royalty Owners Ask Candidates for Courage, Truth

(Tulsa, OK) -- National Association of Royalty Owners (NARO) Exec. Director, Jerry R. Simmons of Tulsa, OK, has urged presidential candidates Clinton, McCain and Obama to “take a long, hard look at the realities of energy supply and consumption in America and the world,” before proposing punitive tax assaults on our nation’s independent producers as a so-called cure for high gasoline prices. “This country’s energy future is too important to be sacrificed to political gamesmanship and short-term political expediency,” he said.

In a letter addressed to the three candidates, Simmons notes the critical differences between domestic oil and gas production and the foreign profit centers most of the multinationals like ExxonMobil rely on. “Domestic production keeps U.S. dollars at home, rather than enabling fleets of tankers filled with foreign oil to drop their product on our shores and return overseas -- stuffed full of American dollars -- to countries who have no stake in the wellbeing of our nation.”

After citing a 1980 statement from the Congressional Budget Office that was highly critical of the Carter Administration’s onerous Windfall Profits Tax (WPT), Simmons continues: “Lessons should be learned from mistakes of the past, by those who would aspire to lead our nation. NARO and its nationwide constituency await the moment when you, as a presidential candidate, exhibit the courage to salute the vital impact of America’s independent producers and royalty owners on our energy independence. The public needs to know the truth.”

Founded in 1980 as a result of the WPT and currently based in Tulsa, Okla., NARO represents the interests of an estimated 4.5 million private mineral and royalty owners from across the nation -- as well as every tax-paying U.S. citizen who is a royalty owner from federal lands.

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For a complete copy of the letter to presidential candidates, go to www.naro-us.org or contact:

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