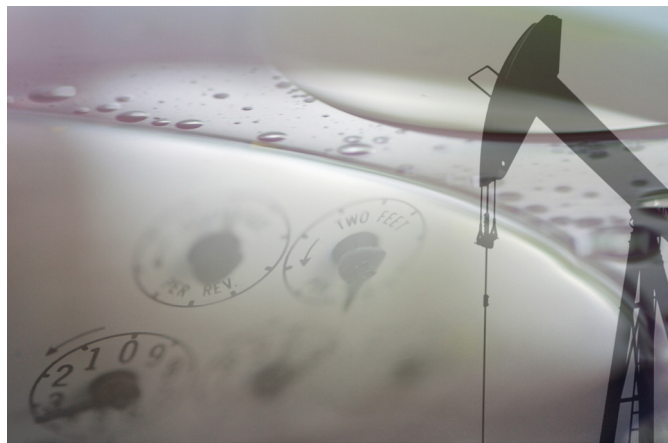


## Federal Regulation of Energy Development on Tribal Lands

On April 26, 2013, the Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs, House Natural Resources Committee, held a hearing on H.R. 1548,<sup>1</sup> the Native American Energy Act. H.R. 1548 has been proposed to streamline federal regulation of energy development on tribal lands. The Act seeks reform of the current appraisal process for determining fair market value of tribal lands, including imposing shorter deadlines for Secretarial review of any appraisal. The Act also intends to reduce the application of the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") to projects on tribal lands by limiting review and comment on those projects to members of the Indian tribe and any other individual residing within the affected area. The Act proposes to prohibit the Bureau of Land Management from collecting certain fees relating to oil and gas development or operations. The Act also seeks to preclude an award of attorneys' fees for lawsuits brought by plaintiffs challenging an agency's decision to issue a permit, lease or other approval authorizing energy development on tribal lands. We will continue to track the Act's progress.

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1 Available at <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr1548/text>.