

## **A Ruling Halting The Biden Public Lands Leasing Pause Relied Heavily On A Debunked Study Written By An Oil Industry Consultant.**

**SUMMARY:** A federal judge put a halt on the Biden administration's temporary pause on new public lands oil and gas leases. But the judge's ruling relies on a debunked study written by an oil industry insider.

Timothy Considine's name is cited in the ruling 13 times. Considine is a long-time oil and gas industry insider who has consulted for the American Petroleum Institute. Most recently, Considine authored a study on the possible effects of a pause on new public lands oil and gas leases. That study was pushed and even edited by Western Energy Alliance, an oil industry lobbying group.

### **The Ruling Relies On A Discredited Study Written By A Longtime Oil Industry Insider**

*The Ruling Extensively Cites A Study Written By Timothy Considine Before Biden Even Took Office*

**A Federal Judge Has Blocked The Biden Administration's Leasing Pause.** "A federal judge in Louisiana on Tuesday blocked the Biden administration's pause on oil and gas leasing on public lands and waters, dealing a setback to a key White House effort to address climate change. [Reuters, [06/15/21](#)]

**The Ruling Cites Figures From Timothy Considine.** "Considine gave an opinion in regard to the economic impact a leasing moratorium and a drilling ban would have on the States of Wyoming, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, North Dakota, Montana, and Alaska. Under a leasing moratorium over the next 5 years (2021-2025), the average annual investment loss to Wyoming would be \$2.3 billion; the average annual investment loss to New Mexico would be \$2.6 billion; to Colorado \$586 million; to Utah \$248 million; to North Dakota \$279 million; to Montana \$56 million; and to Alaska \$412 million." [Memorandum Ruling, [06/15/21](#)]

- **The Ruling Cites Considine Extensively, Mentioning His Name 13 Times.** "Considine estimates harm to state revenue for the said states if a leasing moratorium were imposed. Under his estimates, for the years 2021-2025, the annual revenue losses to Wyoming would be \$304 million; to New Mexico \$946 million; to Colorado \$59 million; to Utah \$27 million; to North Dakota \$136 million; to Montana \$40 million; and to Alaska \$100 million." [Memorandum Ruling, [06/15/21](#)]

*Timothy Considine Is A Long-Time Oil Industry Insider With A Record Of Pushing Big Oil Talking Points*

**Considine Is A Long-Time API Consultant.** In His CV, Considine describes himself as a consultant for the American Petroleum Institute and lists articles he has written for the big oil lobby group. [Timothy J. Considine CV, accessed [03/15/21](#)]

**Considine Has A History Of Working Pushing Big Oil Propaganda.** “The author of the study, Timothy Considine, has a long history of using his position at public institutions to produce materials for oil industry propaganda efforts. In 2010, the Pennsylvania State University requested a report co-authored by Considine be retracted out of concern that it failed to disclose it was funded by the Marcellus Shale Coalition and ‘crossed the line between policy analysis and policy advocacy.’ The Marcellus Shale Coalition is a lobbying organization funded by oil and gas interest. Some of Considine’s career highlights include...” [Documented, 02/04/21]

*An Oil Industry Lobbying Group Tried To Fund The Considine Study And Paid For Its PR Efforts*

**Western Energy Alliance, An Oil Industry Lobbying Group, Tried To Fund The Considine Report Spent \$8,000 On Its PR Efforts.** “The Western Energy Alliance – which represents 200 western oil and gas companies – proposed the \$114,000 publicly funded analysis to state officials, tried to provide matching dollars for it and stayed involved throughout its development, according to public records obtained by Documented and shared with Floodlight and Wyoming Public Media. In February 2020, a Wyoming state senator, who is also the president of an oil company, proposed the spending. The Western Energy Alliance sought to help fund the study but was unable because the industry was in serious decline. It did, however, spend \$8,000 publicizing the report, as was first reported by Politico.” [The Guardian, 03/09/21]

*Records Show The Study’s Author Changed His Methodology To Fit Western Energy Alliance’s Preferences*

**Emails Obtained Through Open Records Requests Show Sgamma’s Group Reviewed The Study Before Its Release And Changed Its Methodology.** “A month earlier, Considine had shared his proposal with Sgamma and then offered to amend it based on her preferences if it would ‘help your fund raising [sic]’. While Considine was conducting his study with state funds, the Western Energy Alliance was part of a team working with state officials to review the report before its release. The group’s spokesperson, Aaron Johnson, got Considine to change his methodology to count more possible economic impacts in Alaska. Johnson later told Considine that the study got ‘very positive results from industry leaders.’” [The Guardian, 03/09/21]