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U.S. Senate Energy Committee Roundtable
Washington, D.C.
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**Shale Development:
Best Practices & Environmental Concerns**

Good morning, Chairman Wyden ... Ranking Member Murkowski ... members of the committee ... and fellow participants in this important roundtable.

I am Jack Williams, president of XTO Energy, based in Fort Worth, Texas. XTO is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation.

Over the past few years, our industry's successful integration of new and proven technologies has unlocked vast and transformative supplies of unconventional oil and natural gas. As a result, we have strengthened economic growth ... increased U.S. competitiveness ... and ignited a manufacturing renaissance across our nation.

Ten years ago, shale gas development was just beginning. Today, it supports more than a million American jobs and generates billions of dollars in taxes and revenues – at a time when our economy really needs it.

Our industry's contributions are not limited to economic growth and job creation. New supplies of cleaner-burning natural gas are also bringing environmental benefits to our nation.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that in 2012, energy-related U.S. carbon dioxide emissions had fallen to levels not seen since the 1990s – even though our economy has expanded more than 50 percent since then.

From President Obama to members of both parties in Congress, from state governors to local communities, voices across America recognize the historic opportunity our technologies have created.

And, thanks to our industry's commitment to operational integrity and effective risk management, we are unlocking these vast, new supplies of energy safely, securely, and in an environmentally responsible way.

From 2006 to 2011, our industry has drilled more than 42,000 wells to develop unconventional oil and natural gas in the United States. Our overall track record has been quite good, reflecting our commitment to safe operations and responsible practices – a commitment that begins with planning, permitting, and community outreach and extends to drilling, well completion, and production.

We have achieved this record not only by embracing our responsibilities, but also by respecting the critical role of government.

At the state and local levels where we operate, we have seen officials respond quickly and effectively to new technologies and challenges. Where necessary, they have enacted laws and strengthened regulations. Strong regulations at the state level protect health and the environment and provide the public confidence that these operations are done right.

Our shared commitment to safety and the application of new technologies proves that our federal system's respect for state oversight is well placed and that we can work together to expand supplies of energy ... grow our economy ... and protect the environment for generations to come.