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## **UTAH OIL AND GAS DIRECTOR JOHN BAZA RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD**

**Salt Lake City** – Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining Director John R. Baza received the prestigious E.W. Marland Award for his years of service and commitment to oil and gas at the annual Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) conference last week in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

“John Baza embodies the core values espoused by IOGCC; passion, integrity, credibility, innovation, efficiency and inclusion,” stated Utah Department of Natural Resources Director Mike Styler. “He is certainly deserving of this award and the state of Utah is proud.”

The annual E.W. Marland Award was established in 1994 to recognize an outstanding state regulator. E.W. Marland was a U.S. Congressman, the 10th governor of Oklahoma, and is considered the father of the IOGCC.

Baza was appointed director of the Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining in May 2005. He is a petroleum engineer by education and work experience, holding both Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees in petroleum engineering from Stanford University.

Mr. Baza has served over 25 years of state government service at the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, with nearly 15 of those years working strictly in the Oil and Gas Program before assuming the role of Division Director. He has previously been responsible for regulation of the upstream oil and gas industry in Utah, and now, as the Director of DOGM, he leads the Division’s efforts in the areas of petroleum development, coal mining, and mineral mining, along with abandoned mine reclamation.

Mr. Baza’s career spans over 36 years working with the energy and mineral extractive industries, and his experience includes engineering positions with several major and independent petroleum companies including Phillips Petroleum Co., Amoco Production Co., and Flying J Oil and Gas Inc. He has been involved in petroleum exploration and development in Wyoming, North Dakota and Utah, and he has also worked on geothermal power projects in Utah, Nevada and California.

Mr. Baza is a registered professional engineer in Utah. He is also a 38-year member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, having held various officers positions including section chairman, program chairman, and scholarship committee chairman.