

# COMMENTS ON THE REFORMS TO THE MEXICAN ENERGY LAWS OF 2008

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## I. INTRODUCTION

A strong discussion has taken place in Mexico since the beginning of this millennium concerning the legal reform of the energy sector, particularly the Mexican government's oil company, *Petróleos Mexicanos* (Pemex). This reform differs from others not only because of its content, but because it caused differences of opinion that frequently poured onto the streets in the form of protests both in favor and against it.<sup>1</sup> Popular opinion on President Calderón's reform project was that the intent behind such project was to privatize Pemex.<sup>2</sup> In my opinion, this continues to be the current popular perception.

Notwithstanding my personal stance, the perception that the reason behind the Energy Reform was to privatize Pemex was fostered by several national political actors, including left wing political parties, particularly the Party of the

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1. See, e.g., *Participan 30,000 en mitin de AMLO*, CNNEXPANSION.com, Apr. 27, 2008, available at <http://www.cnnexpansion.com/actualidad/2008/04/27/participan-30-000-en-mitin-de-amlo> (last visited Mar. 21, 2009).

2. *Id.* (Where, for example, it is reported that a former engineer from the Mexican Oil Institute protests that "Calderón's reform is a reform geared towards privatization and which will rob us of the most valuable resource Mexicans have.").