

June 25, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Representative Pelosi:

The Energy Producing States Coalition (EPSC) is a group of state legislators working together to develop positions on matters of common interest to energy producing states and advocate for sound public policy on issues that affect domestic energy production and transmission. The group was founded in 2011 and currently includes legislators representing Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Mississippi, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

As the Executive Committee and on behalf of EPSC membership, we wish to express our support of H.R. 2231, the "Offshore Energy and Jobs Act," and H.R. 1613, the "Outer Continental Shelf Transboundary Hydrocarbon Agreements Authorization Act," and encourage all Members of the House of Representatives to support both of these bills.

EPSC believes that expanded domestic energy development is vital to economic growth and job creation. In the midst of the recent economic downturn, the energy sector led economic growth and job creation and will likely continue to do so. Further expansion of access, particularly in offshore areas currently off-limits, would likely boost domestic energy production, stimulate necessary job creation, and grow the economy. Of particular importance, H.R. 2231 expands leasing to areas off Virginia and South Carolina. Bipartisan leadership in both states support offshore energy development in the waters adjacent to their coasts and have illustrated their willingness to assume the responsibilities that come with safe energy exploration and production. No EPSC member, nor state official, would support activities that harm their communities and limit the potential for economic growth. Responsible natural resource development would benefit the United States and individual states.

For our constituents, new offshore energy development in the Atlantic could reduce the cost of energy at home and at the pump. It would also minimize the amount of imported oil and ensure consumers access to secure domestic supplies of fuel. In 2006, the Minerals Management Service conservatively estimated that the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf contained a mean estimate of 3.82 billion barrels of oil and 36.99 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. To put it in perspective, 3.82 billion barrels of oil could fuel Virginia's 5.3 million drivers for over 25 years. Moreover, domestic production in the Atlantic could reduce East Coast overseas imports of 30% of which come from OPEC countries, keeping billions of dollars here in the U.S. economy.

Letter to House Leadership  
June 25, 2013  
Page 2

EPSC also supports these bills for the measures taken to increase certainty for offshore operators. Greater clarity about the ability to access domestic resources is necessary for long-term investment decisions. With so much uncertainty due to regulatory adjustments advocated by Washington, DC, potential investment in United States and its workforce can be delayed or cancelled. During the temporary deepwater drilling moratorium in 2010, several operators relocated their rigs abroad as a result of the high degree of uncertainty as to when and to what extent industry would again be allowed to operate in the Gulf of Mexico. In order for investment to stay in the United States, the federal government must foster a more certain and encouraging operating environment for our energy producers.

In closing, EPSC urges both Republicans and Democrats to vote in support of American offshore energy development. Harnessing our domestic resources is in the best interest of our nation's consumers. We look forward to the House's action on these important measures.

Sincerely,



Representative Roger Barrus  
Utah State Legislature  
Chairman, EPSC



Speaker Thomas Lubnau  
Wyoming Legislature  
Immediate Past Chairman, EPSC



Senator Cathy Giessel  
Alaska Legislature  
Chairman-Elect, EPSC

CC: Rep. Doc Hastings (R, WA 4), Chairman, House Natural Resources Committee  
Rep. Ed Markey (D, MA 5), Ranking Member, House Natural Resources Committee  
Rep. Jeff Duncan (R, SC 3) Rep. Mark Amodei (R, NV 2)  
Rep. Dan Benishek (R, MI 1) Rep. Kerry Bentivolio (R, MI 11)  
Rep. Paul Broun (R, GA 10) Rep. Kevin Cramer (R, ND)  
Rep. Steve Daines (R, MT) Rep. Bill Flores (R, TX 17)  
Rep. Tom Graves (R, GA 14) Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R, CA 1)  
Rep. Doug Lamborn (R, CO 5) Rep. Michael McCaul (R, TX 10)  
Rep. Tom McClintock (R, CA 4) Rep. Mark Meadows (R, NC 11)  
Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R, OK 2) Rep. Ted Poe (R, TX 2)  
Rep. Trey Radel (R, FL 19) Rep. Matt Salmon (R, AZ 5)  
Rep. Steve Stockman (R, TX 36) Rep. Chris Stewart (R, UT 2)  
Rep. Ann Wagner (R, MO 2) Rep. Lynn Westmoreland (R, GA 3)  
Rep. Joe Wilson (R, SC 2) Rep. Robert Wittman (R, VA 1)