



June 3, 2013

Congressman Richard "Doc" Hastings, Chairman  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hastings,

On behalf of the Shallow Water Energy Security Coalition (“the Coalition”), I am writing to offer our strong support for your recently released Offshore Energy and Jobs Act draft legislation (“the Hastings Draft Bill”).

The Coalition is comprised of member companies, primarily operators and contractors, that explore and produce oil and natural gas in the shallow waters of the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. The Coalition works on behalf of the 40,000 workers employed throughout our industry, as well as the 180,000 people directly employed in oil and gas exploration along the Gulf Coast.

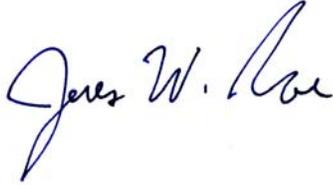
While 20 percent of our nation’s oil and gas production comes from the offshore, the Department of the Interior estimates that there are 86 billion barrels of oil and 420 cubic feet of gas on the Outer Continental Shelf. Under the current Administration’s 5-Year Plan on the Outer Continental Shelf (“OCS”), approximately 85% of our offshore areas remain off limits to energy exploration and production. Therefore, current policy keeps the public in the dark about the full potential of the OCS in meeting our nation’s energy challenges. While policy-makers have great differences about the future direction of U.S. energy policy, there is a stated consensus that in order to solve our nation’s energy challenges, we need an all-of-the-above energy strategy. The Hastings Draft Bill is part of the solution.

If enacted into law, the Hastings Draft Bill will increase domestic oil and gas production in a safe and effective manner, while strengthening our nation’s energy security. We support the legislation’s goal of adding new areas on the offshore for oil and gas development. And, the men and women of America’s drilling contractors, operators and service companies stand ready to get to work producing American energy in new areas open to leasing and development.

We also support the inclusion of a more equitable revenue-sharing regime in the bill. Further, we support the goal of an even more efficient, effective and accountable relationship between the regulators and industry on the OCS.

For all of the above-stated reasons, we strongly support the Hastings Draft Bill. We appreciate the opportunity to express our views on this legislation, and thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James W. Noe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a long, sweeping underline.

Jim Noe  
Executive Director  
Shallow Water Energy Security Coalition