



Red Cavaney
President and Chief Executive Officer

1220 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-4070
USA
Telephone 202-682-8100
Fax 202-682-8110
Email rcavaney@api.org
www.api.org

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Dear Member of Congress:

The federal drilling moratoria that have locked up vast amounts of the nation's oil and natural gas resources for years will expire on September 30. If the right actions are taken going forward, this could mean more ample and secure energy supplies for the American people, more U.S. jobs, and less reliance on imported oil. It could help reduce the costs of energy for transportation, for electric power production, and for home and office heating and cooling.

Our lifestyles, our economic strength, and our national security all depend on ready availability of adequate supplies of energy. If we don't take steps to control our energy destiny, we put at risk a better future for ourselves and for the generations that follow. Large domestic supplies of oil and natural gas are critical to our energy future. Alternatives are important but cannot yet substitute for the vast amounts of the oil and natural gas we now use and are projected to continue to demand.

A sound national energy policy will encourage energy diversity and conservation. It will push the development of alternatives, encourage greater energy efficiency, but ensure we have the traditional fuels we will continue to require, as well.

The oil and natural gas industry has the technology and know-how to safely bring the resources affected by the moratoria out of the earth and to consumers. But we can't do that without Congress's help. Congress can assist by taking the following steps:

- Don't reimpose the moratoria or create other obstacles, including additional taxes on the oil and natural gas industry, to the development of the plentiful resources the moratoria have kept off-limits.
- Resolve that these resources be developed and call for the U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS) to schedule lease sales in the most resource rich areas in its next five-year plan.
- Ensure that MMS has the tools and funding to complete the appropriate environmental analysis and proceed with leasing expeditiously.

Our nation has rich reserves of oil and natural gas off its coasts and on its federal lands. These are the birthright of the American people. American consumers need, and will need, these resources. Increasingly these consumers believe those resources should be developed, putting more Americans to work. They are counting on all of us to work together to help make this happen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Red Cavaney". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Red Cavaney