



AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

July 14, 2008

Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
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Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), I am writing to express taxpayers' strong support for lifting the ban on offshore oil drilling.

We recognize and appreciate your public support for increasing domestic oil production through offshore oil drilling. Even former supporters of the ban, such as Florida's Governor Charlie Crist, now want the decision left to the individual states, as opposed to a top-down federal mandate.

According to a recent Rasmussen Reports survey (conducted prior to your announcement), 67 percent of Americans want Congress to overturn the moratorium, including 85 percent of Republicans and 57 percent of Democrats. The American people have clearly expressed their bipartisan support for lifting the federal ban. It is time for Congress to follow the views of the American people, to represent them, and to help ease the financial burden placed upon them by rising energy costs.

However, you can immediately start this process, Mr. President. In 1998, President Clinton renewed an executive order banning offshore oil drilling through 2012. By canceling this executive order, you can send a constructive message to Congress and the American people that you yourself are willing to take direct action to lower energy prices while the Congressional leadership has so far only been interested in increasing prices through higher taxes.

If the United States is serious about lowering energy prices and reducing our dependence on foreign oil, we must look domestically. You yourself can lead the way.

Onward,

Grover G. Norquist
GGN/bmj

cc: All Members of US Congress