



AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

June 20, 2008

To: All Members, U.S. Congress
Subject: Offshore Drilling Ban Hurting American Families

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

One day after Senator McCain spoke in favor of lifting the federal ban on offshore drilling, President Bush announced his support for ending the "outdated" 27-year-old moratorium. Even former supporters of the ban, such as Florida's Governor Charlie Crist, now want to leave the decision to the individual states, as opposed to a top-down federal mandate.

According to a recent Rasmussen Reports survey (conducted prior to Senator McCain's announcement), 67% of Americans want Congress to overturn the moratorium, including 85% of Republicans and 57% 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.

Lifting the moratoria for oil and natural gas exploration and production would open millions acres on the outer Continental Shelf (OCS) for oil and gas leasing. The resource estimates for the restricted areas is estimated at 17.84 billion barrels of oil and approximately 76.47 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The natural gas supply made available by this agreement is enough to heat and cool nearly sixty million homes for twenty years.

If the United States is serious about lowering energy prices and reducing our dependence on foreign oil, we must look domestically. Members in both chambers of Congress should vote to lift the federal restrictions on exploration in U.S. coastal waters.

Onward,

Grover G. Norquist

1920 L Street NW

Suite 200

Washington, DC

20036

T: (202) 785-0266

F: (202) 785-0261

www.ATR.org