



Dear Senator,

We are writing to strongly urge that you add your name to the “American Energy Freedom Day” letter being circulated by Senator DeMint. The letter urges Members of Congress to allow the congressional moratorium on increased American production to expire on October 1, permitting oil and gas exploration off the Outer Continental Shelf, as well as development of Western oil-shale fields. By signing this letter, you will demonstrate your commitment to increasing American sources of energy, which will help move our nation toward energy independence.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, lifting the Congressional moratorium on new domestic energy would give American companies access to 65 percent of the nation’s undiscovered, recoverable oil, and 40 percent of its natural gas. Recent polls confirm that Americans overwhelmingly support developing these energy resources, as well as those in Alaska. They understand that refusing to explore for American sources of energy is a recipe for continued reliance on foreign energy, which makes us less secure.

Indeed, a significant portion of the nearly \$700 billion we spend annually to import almost 70% of our oil is ending up in the hands of Hugo Chavez and other world leaders who have repeatedly expressed their desire to bring harm to America and our allies. We cannot continue to fund our enemies.

Furthermore, countering the pervasive expectation of limited supply will lead to lower prices immediately – not years from now as the critics claim. In testimony before the Joint Economic Committee, Daniel Yergin, the head of the influential energy consultancy Cambridge Energy Research Associates, made it clear that taking steps to permit exploration for new sources of energy will counter the “shortage psychology” gripping the market.

Families are skipping vacations, businesses are facing higher costs while consumers face higher prices, and schools are facing shorter weeks all because of soaring energy costs. The American people demand action. Alternative and renewable forms of energy hold great promise, but many are decades away from being feasible

– and may never be. Increasing American energy sources will lower prices at the pump and create good-paying jobs – at no cost to taxpayers. To the contrary, Federal revenue will increase from new government leases and increased economic activity.

Congressional leaders in both the House and Senate have demonstrated that they are not serious about allowing American energy exploration and we cannot count on them to schedule votes on energy exploration bills that can make a real difference. Doing nothing and hoping for the best is not an energy policy. The best way to increase American supplies of energy and make America more energy independent is to allow the current drilling moratorium to expire.

For these reasons, we strongly encourage you to sign the “American Energy Freedom Day” letter and allow the ban on exploration and drilling to expire on October 1. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Eule
Chief of Staff
Freedom’s Watch

Tim Phillips
President
Americans for Prosperity

Ken Blackwell
Chairman
Coalition for a Conservative
Majority

Jim Martin
President
60 Plus Association

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

Thomas Schatz
President
Council for Citizens Against
Government Waste

Brian Johnson
Executive Director
Alliance for Worker Freedom

Jeffrey Mazzella
President
Center for Individual Freedom

Andrew Langer
President
Institute for Liberty

Ryan Ellis
Executive Director
American Shareholders
Association

David Bossie
President
Citizens United

Colin Hanna
President

Gary Bauer
President
American Values

Joel Mandelman
Chairman
Cleans Oceans Technology
Coalition

Let Freedom Ring

Kelsey Zahourek
Executive Director
Property Rights Alliance

Bill Wilson
President
Americans for Limited
Government

Steve Baldwin
President
CNP Action, Inc.