



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

September 30, 2008

Dear Senator,

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) and all energy consuming taxpaying Americans, I would like to thank you for opposing the so-called "Second Stimulus" which included a ban on shale oil.

As you know, there are an estimated 800 billion barrels of oil contained within the U.S. shale oil regions. These areas have been recently off limits to U.S. energy production due to a decade long moratorium. That moratorium is set to expire on October 1, 2008.

However, Sen. Reid attempted to extend this moratorium in the "Second Stimulus" package at a time when Americans need relief the most. Luckily, this back-door attempt to stall American energy production was thwarted.

Now that the moratorium on shale oil and Offshore Continental Shelf (OCS) are scheduled to expire on October 1, there still remain provisions that stand in the way of accessing these much needed resources.

Therefore, I urge you to pass expedited leasing legislation and work to remove the legal barriers that stand in the way of American companies accessing the now available resources.

In February of this year there were 487 leases issued in Alaska's Chukchi Sea which holds an estimated 15 billion barrels of oil. However due to frivolous lawsuits all 487 leases have been legally challenged and delayed.

Right now, there are 748 leases between two major seas in Alaska, the Chukchi and Beaufort, and exploration in every single lease was legally challenged in May of this year.

With all of the recent progress made toward securing America's energy independence, we must take the final steps to ensure this progress was not made in vain. Do not let egregious law suits and a unnecessarily complicated leasing program interfere with lowering American energy costs.

Onward,

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