

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4322

NICK LAMPSON  
22ND DISTRICT, TEXAS

June 25, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-107, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Clyburn  
Majority Whip  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-329, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rahm Emanuel  
Democratic Caucus Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
202 A Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Larson  
Democratic Caucus Vice Chairman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1005 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, Majority Whip Clyburn, Chairman Emanuel and Vice Chairman Larson:

I write to urge you to strongly consider taking a bi-partisan, comprehensive approach to solving our energy problem. The rancor and incivility with which this debate has been waged thus far has overshadowed the true policy concerns we must address and is unacceptable to the American people who look to us for leadership and solutions. We will not be able to accomplish anything, let alone lead our nation to energy independence, if we are unable to have a civil debate and are unwilling to allow all options on the table. In particular, legislation to increase domestic energy production, including the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Outer Continental Shelf, should be a part of the way forward and not blocked from consideration in favor of harmful efforts to stifle production on existing leases.

An energy plan that will provide economic and environmental security for our nation must include conventional and unconventional domestic sources. While we should strive to develop and deploy viable emission-free energy sources, we cannot turn our back on fossil fuels. These sources will provide the bridge to the future. Additionally, reducing emissions allowances for these conventional fuels will spur the technology necessary to make their recovery and use cleaner.

As we face tightening resources and soaring demand, now is not the time to punish domestic energy producers, whether big or small. We should pursue a path that encourages production of current leases while at the same time opening additional on-

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and off-shore areas for exploration and production. Recent polls show that there is widespread support among our constituents as well as growing support in the House to open additional federal lands for exploration and production. I strongly urge you to allow genuine debate and a vote on this issue. We cannot know exactly what domestic resources are available if we do not allow this to happen.

I believe that current proposals to shorten lease agreements and increase fees on federal lands are counter-productive. Shorter leases and increased fees will not act as an incentive for production; they will drive independent producers, who own ninety percent of offshore leases, out of business and send development, exploration, and production overseas, leaving us more reliant on foreign energy supplied by national oil companies. Instead we should provide incentives to independent and small energy companies and work to create new energy jobs and train the next generation of technicians and engineers.

The American public expects us to address this vital issue properly and without rancor or extreme partisanship. Our nation's growing energy needs cannot be fully met with either fossil fuels or alternative fuels alone, and we risk jeopardizing our economy, foreign policy, national security, and our environment if we do not recognize this. Fossil fuels still remain an important part of any viable, comprehensive energy strategy for America and will for the foreseeable future.

I look forward to working with you as we move forward with a comprehensive energy agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Lampson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nick Lampson

Member of Congress