



June 11, 2013

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hastings:

The Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) writes to express its support for H.R. 2231, the Offshore Energy and Jobs Act of 2013, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to increase energy exploration and production on the Outer Continental Shelf, provide for equitable revenue sharing for all coastal States, and to implement the reorganization of the functions of the former Minerals Management Service into distinct and separate agencies.

As you know, recent increases in oil and natural gas production on state and private land have created thousands of good-paying jobs, bolstered local economic vitality, and contributed greatly to our nation's greater energy security. Despite these many successes, access to the nation's offshore oil and natural gas supplies remains significantly blocked by a prohibitive regulatory framework which keeps 85 percent of offshore areas excluded from energy production.

The Offshore Energy and Jobs Act would enhance development of new production areas by requiring a revised five-year plan and subsequent offshore leasing plans to include areas known to contain known reserves of oil and natural gas. Among other provisions, H.R. 2231 would further direct new lease sales off the coast of Virginia, South Carolina and California and provide those states access to 37.5 percent of the revenues generated off their shores, and it would reorganize the Department of Interior to ensure a more efficient oversight and permitting of offshore areas. The IPAA believes that H.R. 2231 would help address many of the ill-crafted regulatory policies that have constricted American offshore development. IPAA urges the House of Representatives to pass this important legislation.

Thank you for introducing this important legislation and IPAA looks forward to working with you to support its enactment.

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Naatz
Vice President, Federal Resources
Independent Petroleum Association of America