



June 12, 2008

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Dear Mr. President:

Before you left the United States earlier this week for your European tour, you stated that high energy prices were due, in part, to a lack of domestic energy supplies. We agree, and urge you to demonstrate your commitment to increasing domestic supplies by immediately repealing the Presidential Executive Order that established a moratorium on U.S. outer continental shelf (OCS) energy production.

Two federal bans keep the U.S. from producing its vast offshore energy resources. The Executive Moratorium was instituted in 1990 and is set to expire in 2012, but can be eliminated by the President at any time. The Congressional Moratorium comes in the form of an annual appropriations rider in Congress. It expires every year and must be renewed annually by a vote in the Congress. Neither have the force of permanent law.

Unfortunately, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations yesterday rejected a proposal to modify the long-standing Congressional ban on offshore energy development so that production may occur in federal waters of the outer continental shelf (OCS) beyond fifty miles of our shores. We believe this was a failure of leadership. We ask that you show your leadership by tearing up the presidential moratorium. Doing so would remove a significant barrier to lowering energy prices for Americans, and send a signal to the world that the United States is no longer putting its energy fate solely in the hands of foreign nations.

Because of these outdated bans, more than 97 percent of our nation's vast OCS remains fallow, with less than 3 percent being leased for energy production. We believe it self-destructive and immoral for us, as a nation, to continue to allow our consumers to suffer the economic consequences of government policies that deliberately restrict access to energy supplies. The consequences of the OCS moratoria have been devastating to American energy security. We are the only advanced country in the world that ties its own hands behind its back with such a policy. Brazil, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Australia and Norway are all examples of advanced nations and allies that do not restrict their own energy production. Americans are suffering unnecessarily.

According to the U.S. Minerals Management Service, America's OCS contains at least 86 billion barrels of oil and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas – enough to dramatically increase domestic supplies, create jobs, and spur new investments in our economy. As such, lifting the moratoria would provide you with a unique opportunity to finally turn aside the failed “No New Supplies” policies of the past, and reacquaint Americans with the optimism they feel when they realize that the only limits to their growth are those imposed upon them by their government.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Pyle
President