



August 18, 2015

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman:

The Texas Conservative Coalition (TCC) is writing to express our support for lifting the United States' embargo on crude oil exports. For nearly a quarter millennium the United States has been a beacon of freedom and prosperity. Through free trade and capitalism it has grown into the strongest nation in the history of the world, both politically and economically. And yet, Congress has left an embargo on exports of U.S. produced crude oil in place since 1973. It is time to lift the embargo. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee recently voted in favor of the Offshore Production and Energizing National Security Act of 2015. The House is preparing to review its own version of the bill (H.R. 702), sponsored by Joe Barton of Texas. We strongly urge you to support these pieces of legislation.

As an energy leader, the oil export embargo is particularly relevant to Texas. Texas contains approximately one-third of the total U.S. crude oil reserves and is the leading crude oil producer in the nation. It has played a central role in the energy revolution of the last decade, in which oil production in the United States increased by more than 80% (since 2007) to 9.5 million barrels per day.

The abundance of oil resulting from increased production has fundamentally changed the United States' position in the world energy market, but the law has not kept up. In 2007, U.S. crude exports were all but nonexistent. Exports now total approximately half a million barrels of crude per day to Canada—a major exception to the embargo. Also inconsistent is the fact that *refined* oil products may be exported without violating the embargo. Most refineries in the United States are suited to refine the heavier grades of

TCC ★ P.O. Box 2659, Austin TX 78768 ★ 512-474-1798 ★ txcc.org

oil imported from other countries. In contrast, most oil extracted in the United States is of the lighter variety, meaning that refining it domestically imposes additional costs. Despite these additional costs, however, the United States exported approximately four million barrels of refined oil products per day in 2014.

Perhaps most important is the new context in which President Obama's deal with Iran places the oil export embargo. Given that the deal authorizes Iran to resume its own oil exports, it makes little sense to restrict the United States' participation in the global marketplace. Congress should act so that American energy companies can compete with the new market entrant.

The current embargo on oil exports creates a number of energy market distortions in the United States and the practical considerations to lifting the embargo are myriad, but there philosophical arguments to lifting the embargo as well. The United States is known for free trade, yet the embargo restricts free trade of one of the nation's most abundant natural resources. TCC strongly urges you to continue the tradition of prosperity through free trade by opening up oil markets and lifting the embargo on crude oil exports.

Sincerely,



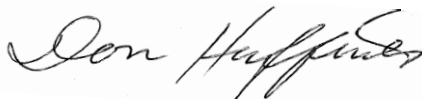
Senator Donna Campbell



Senator Bob Hall



Senator Kelly Hancock



Senator Don Huffines



Senator Van Taylor



Representative Charles "Doc" Anderson



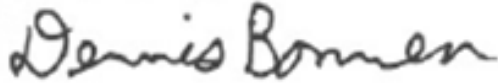
Representative Trent Ashby



Representative Cecil Bell Jr.



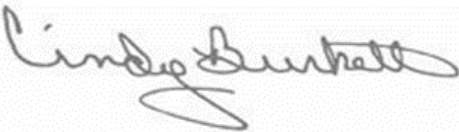
Representative Dwayne Bohac



Representative Dennis Bonnen



Representative Greg Bonnen



Representative Cindy Burkett



Representative DeWayne Burns



Representative Giovanni Capriglione



Representative Travis Clardy



Representative Tom Craddick



Representative Myra Crownover



Representative Tony Dale



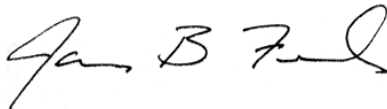
Representative Gary Elkins



Representative Pat Fallon



Representative Dan Flynn



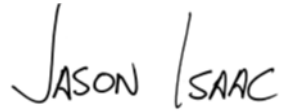
Representative James Frank



Representative Craig Goldman



Representative Patricia Harless



Representative Jason Isaac



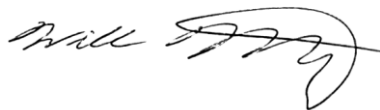
Representative Phil King



Representative Matthew Krause



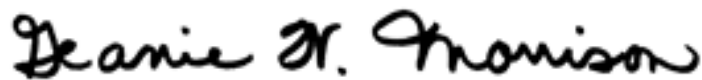
Representative Jeff Leach



Representative Will Metcalf



Representative Rick Miller



Representative Geanie Morrison



Representative Jim Murphy



Representative Chris Paddie



Representative Tan Parker



Representative Dennis Paul



Representative Larry Phillips



Representative Matt Rinaldi



Representative Mike Schofield



Representative Matt Shaheen



Representative Kenneth Sheets



Representative Ron Simmons



Representative Stuart Spitzer



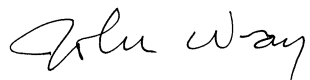
Representative Drew Springer



Representative Ed Thompson



Representative James White



Representative John Wray