



Tom Fry
President

November 29, 2006

**NATIONAL
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ASSOCIATION**

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The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the member companies of the National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA) – which represents hundreds of companies engaged in all sectors of the domestic offshore oil and natural gas industry, including exploration, production, equipment manufacture and supply, geophysical, and other diverse offshore support services – I write to urge you to take action before the close of the 109th Congress to pass much-needed legislation opening more acreage on the nation's Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) for oil and gas production.

This summer, both the House and Senate made history: for the first time in over two decades, legislators took the vital step of passing bills to expand the nation's access to the domestic oil and natural gas resources beneath our own OCS. Members of the House of Representatives passed H.R. 4761, the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act and the United States Senate approved S. 3711, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act.

Both deliberative bodies clearly recognized that the future security and economic prosperity of the nation require rethinking the policies that have consistently placed over 80 percent of the OCS off-limits, despite a long record of safe and environmentally-responsible exploration and production.

Both bills contain elements that will change this flawed public policy and help the United States reduce its dependence on foreign sources of oil and natural gas while allowing domestic industries and individual consumers greater access to reliable, affordable energy.

Yet, despite broad support for the objectives that OCS legislation would achieve and indications from the President that such legislation would promptly be signed into law, the House and Senate have not yet come to agreement on a bill to be sent to the President. We cannot afford to remain the only industrialized nation in the world that refuses to consider development of our own domestic energy supplies. Time is running out.

We urge the Congress not to leave the job before them unfinished. Every day that goes by without a law that brings more American energy to market leaves the nation that much less secure and prosperous.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Fry", is written over a printed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "F".

Tom Fry

cc: The Honorable John Boehner
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Richard Pombo