



**Industrial Energy Consumers of America**  
*The Voice of the Industrial Energy Consumers*

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May 7, 2008

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks, Chair  
The Honorable James P. Moran  
The Honorable Maurice D. Hinchey  
The Honorable John W. Olver  
The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan  
The Honorable Tom Udall  
The Honorable Ben Chandler  
The Honorable Ed Pastor

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt, Ranking Member  
The Honorable John E. Peterson  
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson  
The Honorable Virgil H. Goode, Jr.  
The Honorable Ken Calvert

Dear Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies:

The entire country is counting on you to show leadership in dealing with the high energy prices that are crippling our country and our future. Your vote in support of removing the moratorium on drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) will demonstrate leadership and compassion for our country's welfare. We ask you, how can you deny America's homeowners, farmers and manufacturers lower energy prices when you know that there is over a 90-year supply of natural gas and 100 billion barrels of oil offshore that is now off-limits to production?

The May 6, 2008 New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) price for natural gas closed at \$11.15 per mm Btu or 48% higher than one year ago. At this price level, consumers could pay \$85.9 billion more for their natural gas than they did in 2007.

Despite the advertising campaign by Chesapeake Energy, natural gas supply is fragile. According to the Energy Information Administration, natural gas production in 2000 was 19.2 versus 19.3 trillion cubic feet in 2007. Demand increased by 9.8 percent in the same time period. Demand continues to outstrip supply.

We are counting on you to support removing the OCS moratoria.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio  
President

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*IECA is a 501 (C) (6) nonprofit organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: plastics, rubber, cement, paper, food processing, aluminum, chemicals, fertilizer, brick, insulation, steel, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, and brewing.*