



June 16, 2008

The Honorable Dave Obey  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
H-218 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

On behalf of the Consumer Alliance for Energy Security, we write today to urge you to support the Peterson amendment to the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, which will lift the moratorium on energy leasing in areas 50 miles off of our shores. At a time when gasoline, diesel, and natural gas prices are hitting all-time highs, our nation must increase development of domestic energy supplies to help put America on a path to a more affordable and secure future.

Increasing American energy supplies by utilizing our vast resources in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) can help bring down the cost of energy. The price of natural gas, for example, has skyrocketed over 460% since 2000, which has significantly contributed to the U.S. manufacturing industry losing over 3.1 million jobs and the erosion of nearly half of the U.S. production capacity for nitrogen fertilizer. At the same time, consumers are paying more for electricity, home heating, gasoline, diesel fuel, and food.

Your support of the Peterson amendment is critical in helping to lower these costs and to provide relief to U.S. consumers. With today's technology, these resources can be developed in an environmentally-sound manner and are necessary to enhance U.S. energy security. Please vote in favor of the Peterson amendment during consideration of the annual spending bill for the Department of Interior. U.S. consumers are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Agriculture Energy Alliance  
American Chemistry Council  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Fiber Manufacturers Association  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Gas Association  
American Iron and Steel Institute  
American Public Gas Association  
Arkema Inc.  
Associated Builders and Contractors  
Bayer Material Science  
Celanese  
CF Industries  
Chemtura Corporation  
Consumer Energy Alliance  
Dow Corning Corporation  
Eastman Chemical Company  
Edison Electric Institute  
FMC Corporation

Industrial Energy Consumers of America  
International Paper  
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America  
Hercules Incorporated  
Huntsman Corporation  
Nalco Company  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Paint and Coatings Association  
PPG Industries, Inc.  
Rohm and Haas Company  
Southeast Energy Alliance  
The Aluminum Association  
The Carpet and Rug Institute  
The Dow Chemical Company  
The Fertilizer Institute  
The Printing Industries of America  
The Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc.  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

