



June 9, 2008

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dicks:

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