



Industrial Energy Consumers of America

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December 20, 2006

George W. Bush
President
United States of America

In behalf of the members of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA), I wish to express our gratitude for your signing into law H.R. 6111, The Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 that contains the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. This legislation is a critically important first step to increase domestic supply of natural gas and oil that is essential to reducing energy prices, keeping manufacturing jobs in the United States and increasing energy security.

It is very important that the Minerals Management Service act quickly to process the necessary permits and approvals that will be necessary to lease the Gulf of Mexico areas included in the bill within one year or less.

The future uncertainty of US natural gas supply is alarming. The Energy Information Administration says that production has declined from 19.6 to 18.2 trillion cubic feet from year 2001 to year 2005, a 7.1 percent decline. This is despite year over year record well completions.

The accelerating depletion of our existing production fields presents challenges for maintaining or increasing supply of natural gas unlike what we have faced before. The average production well decline rate has almost doubled from the early 1990's. This makes it all the more important that the Administration place leasing the 8.3 million acres included in the legislation as a high priority.

Thank you for your help on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio
President