

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 2, 2008

The Honorable Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7229
Washington, D.C. 20240

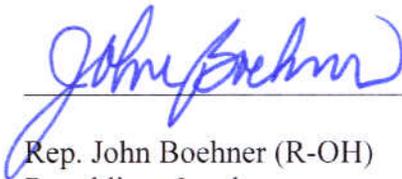
Dear Secretary Kempthorne:

Now that the Democratic Leaders who control Congress have finally allowed the federal government's misguided ban on new offshore drilling and oil shale production to expire, we are writing to urge you to identify those actions Congress needs to take to ensure our nation can reap the benefits of these new domestic energy supplies as quickly as possible. The more quickly we can increase domestic energy production, the more quickly we can boost our flagging economy, increase economic growth and jobs, and bring relief to energy-strapped Americans struggling with high gas prices and rising utility bills.

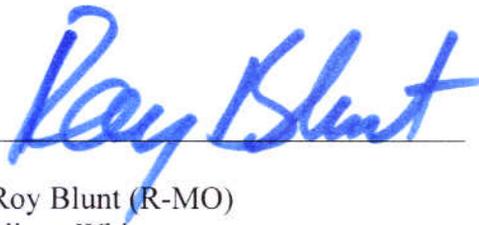
We are concerned by media reports that radical anti-energy groups may, with the tacit support of the Democratic Congressional leadership, file a barrage of lawsuits to continue to deny the American people access to these vital sources of American-made energy. We are also concerned by speculation that federal red tape and bureaucratic hurdles exist that will prevent Americans from gaining quick access to these resources. Such delays would needlessly hinder the creation of tens of thousands of good American jobs and further slow our nation on its path to lower gas prices and energy independence.

In this light, we respectfully request that you quickly provide a detailed list of any potential bureaucratic barriers and identify any potential litigation that may unnecessarily prevent the American people from having prompt access to, or reaping the benefits from, these newly-liberated sources of American-made energy. We also request that you identify any responsible actions that might be taken by Congress in order to ensure these resources are fully and completely unlocked in the most expeditious manner possible.

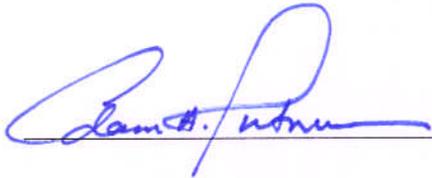
Sincerely,



Rep. John Boehner (R-OH)
Republican Leader



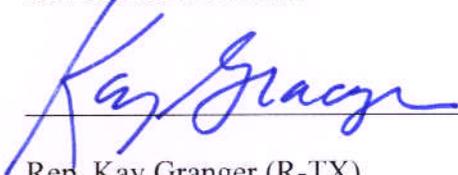
Rep. Roy Blunt (R-MO)
Republican Whip



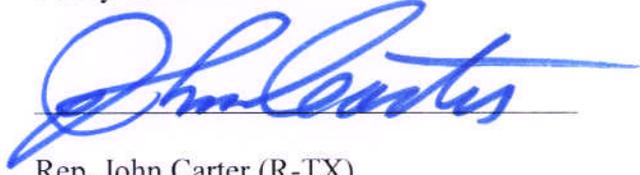
Rep. Adam Putnam (R-FL)
Conference Chairman



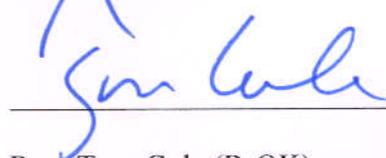
Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI)
Policy Committee Chairman



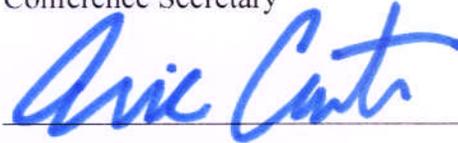
Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX)
Conference Vice-Chairman



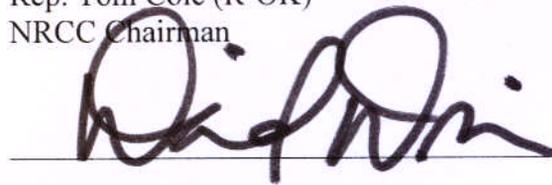
Rep. John Carter (R-TX)
Conference Secretary



Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK)
NRCC Chairman



Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA)
Chief Deputy Whip



Rep. David Dreier (R-CA)
Rules Committee Ranking Republican