



July 23, 2012

The Honorable Doc Hastings  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hastings:

The Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) writes to express our support for H.R. 6082 and the efforts of the House Natural Resources Committee to develop a five-year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) plan that better reflects America's desire for expanded domestic energy production offshore.

Unlike the final five-year OCS plan developed by the Obama Administration, which follows the same tired path for American offshore exploration that has been pursued for a generation, H.R. 6082 provides an opportunity to make real progress. This legislation is a step in the right direction for American energy production and will expand the five-year OCS leasing program and enhance our nation's energy security. The legislation will create jobs and economic development not only in coastal states, but throughout the nation.

IPAA is also pleased that H.R. 6082 opens the federal waters off the Commonwealth of Virginia for offshore exploration. There is strong bipartisan support from Virginia's top elected officials to develop the promising waters of that state, yet the Department of the Interior refuses to take meaningful action to move forward and make this area available for exploration. Instead of turning away from areas that have strong local support for offshore energy production, the United States should be looking for new opportunities to increase our energy security. H.R. 6082 provides an opportunity for our nation to take a bold step in support of American energy security and we urge the House of Representatives to pass this important legislation.

Thank you for your attention regarding this important legislation. We look forward to working with you to support passage of H.R. 6082 as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Daniel T. Naatz  
Vice President, Federal Resources  
Independent Petroleum Association of America