Senators Introduce Bipartisan Bills on Crude Oil Exports

Crude oil export legislation is beginning to move in the United States Senate. Last Wednesday, May 13, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) introduced bipartisan legislation seeking to lift the 1970's restrictions on exports of crude oil in the United States. The "Energy Supply and Distribution Act of 2015" (S. 1312) would modernize federal energy policy by ending the outdated ban on crude oil exports.

Murkowski and Heitkamp were joined by Sens. Hoeven (R-N.D.), Barrasso (R-Wyo.), McCain (R-Ariz.), Corker (R-Tenn.), Alexander (R-Tenn.), Risch (R-Idaho), Flake (R-Ariz.), Capito (R-W.Va.), Inhofe (R-Okla.), Rubio (R-Fla.), and Lankford (R-Okla.) as original cosponsors and representing six committee Chairmen.

On Tuesday, May 19, Senator Heitkamp and Murkowski also introduced a separate bipartisan bill, the "American Crude Oil Export Equality Act," which aims to complement and strengthen the earlier bill to enhance efforts to lift the U.S. oil export ban. Senators Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) joined Heitkamp and Murkowski as original cosponsors.

Crude oil exports could play a key role in keeping the development of U.S. production on course. Much like the export of gasoline and diesel fuels from American refineries now helps keep refining jobs in America, oil exports will enable the United States to invest in more American shale crude development and keep those good-paying jobs here in America.

For months, IPAA and our member companies have been actively working with Senator Murkowski and Heitkamp’s offices, House and Senate leadership, and a number of energy trade associations to develop a...
natural gas and oil and reduce the bloc's dependency on Russia. Fossil-fuel exports from the U.S. have been restricted for decades. Yet growing internal production of oil and gas has eased some of Washington's concerns over energy independence and the Energy Information Administration believes the U.S. will become a net gas exporter in 2017.

**Lift America's embargo on exporting its own oil.** *Grand Forks Herald,* Editorial. Because one sure result of lifting the ban would be a longer and stronger boom. There'd be more drilling, which would mean more jobs, more people, more schools, more housing, more money (a lot more money)-in short, more growth, in North Dakota and throughout the Midwest. That's why North Dakota's U.S. senators are leading the effort to repeal the ban.

framework for this commonsense legislation. Over the next several months, IPAA expects similar bills related to crude exports to advance in both the House and Senate, which we will be closely monitoring and will keep you informed.

**Click here to join the IPAA Oil Export Working Group**

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