



November 6, 2017

Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva,

As trade associations representing companies who produce the energy needed to fuel our cars and heat our homes, we support H.R. 4239, the Strengthening the Economy with Critical Untapped Resources to Expand American Energy Act (SECURE Act), which seeks to achieve and maintain our domestic energy dominance by harnessing more onshore and offshore energy production here in the U.S.

The U.S. is fortunate to have an abundance of traditional and renewable natural resources onshore and offshore. The EIA estimates that we have more proven reserves of oil and natural gas now than at almost any time since 1965. Yet, these estimates do not take into consideration the likelihood of significantly more offshore resources in areas where modern scientific research has not yet been conducted to accurately estimate the resource base. Additionally, 94% of the nation's outer continental shelf is currently off limits to leasing, exploration and production. With the technical advancements that have been made and will continue to be made, the U.S. can safely explore new areas and unlock more of these resources in the years to come. The question is will the government be a ready and willing partner to assist in the safe development and production of these resources? We believe enactment of the SECURE Act will begin to alleviate the bureaucratic roadblocks that stymie our domestic energy productivity. Among other things, the SECURE Act will allow for timely approval of permits and lease sales to ensure our nation's resources are being developed in a prudent and responsible way. The bill also provides revenue sharing for coastal states hosting production off their shores, which can help states support funding for priorities such as transportation, education, and coastal restoration programs.

The arguments for developing our domestic natural resources are not new. Developing these resources in the U.S. is not only beneficial to the American consumer in the form of affordable energy prices, but also to foreign countries who prefer to have choices for their energy supply and not be held hostage by unfriendly regimes. In addition, millions of good paying jobs are created that support American families and billions of dollars are generated for the U.S. Treasury. Smart policy decisions made today will benefit Americans for decades.

For these reasons, we support H.R. 4239 and ask Congress for its swift enactment.

Sincerely,

International Association of Drilling Contractors, National Offshore Industries Association, American Exploration and Production Council, American Petroleum Institute, Independent Petroleum Association of America, U.S. Oil and Gas Association, International Association of Geophysical Contractors, Petroleum Equipment & Services Association