



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

17 March 2010

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar,

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform, and millions of taxpayers nationwide, **I urge you to reconsider your decision to delay Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) development until 2012.** Developing Americas OCS regions is a position overwhelmingly supported by the American people. Furthermore, harnessing America's natural resources will immediately create jobs, at no cost to the taxpayer.

Looking to gauge the public's opinion regarding OCS drilling, you proposed to extend the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program public comment period, saying "the additional time we are providing will give states, stakeholders, and affected communities the opportunity to provide input on the future of our offshore areas."

The public responded, in overwhelmingly numbers, submitting more than 530,000 comments. After months of delay, and the submission of a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), sources indicated that comments in support of offshore drilling outnumber anti-drilling comments by a 2 to 1 margin.

Certainly the American people's broad support of OCS drilling is due to the positive economic impact it would have. Authorizing OCS drilling would create more than 870,000 jobs which would add an additional \$270 billion in annual economic growth. Effectively preventing job creation and economic growth, denying OCS development will only prolong the current economic downturn and high levels of unemployment.

The American people have spoken – they want to harness all of America's natural resources and mine its oil-and-gas reserves. I urge you to implement the OCS 2010-2015 plan that would promote immediate oil-and-gas development and not extend the current moratorium for an additional two years.

For more information, contact ATR Federal Affairs Manager Brian Johnson in my office at bjohnson@atr.org or 202.785.0266.

Onward,

Grover G. Norquist

cc: President Barack Obama
Members of the U.S. House of Representative
Members of the U.S. Senate

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