

Melissa Velez-Morales

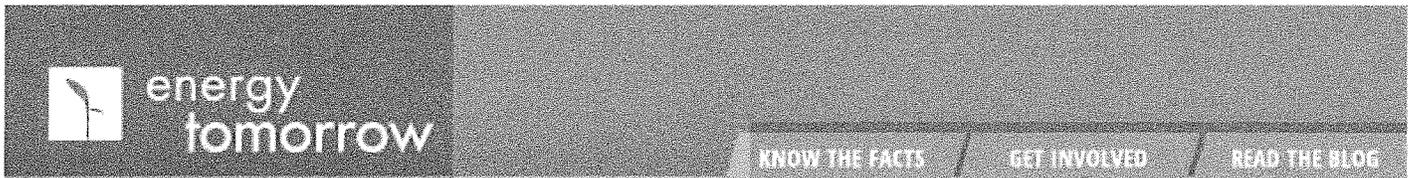
From: Masser, Michelle
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 10:46 AM
To: Harris, Laura
Cc: Gouveia, Susan; Melissa Velez-Morales
Subject: FW: Voters Support Offshore Energy

CORRESPONDENCE

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From: Jack Gerard, API [mailto:Jack_Gerard_API@mail.vresp.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 10:43 AM
To: Masser, Michelle <clerkmichelle@mtolivetwp.org>
Subject: Voters Support Offshore Energy

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March 9, 2016

Voters Support Offshore Energy

Dear Michelle,

Offshore oil production in the Gulf of Mexico is set to reach a record high next year, according to new projections from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). By the end of 2017, production is projected to reach 1.9 million barrels per day, accounting for 21 percent of total U.S. crude oil production.

That represents a crucial contribution to America's energy security, economy and global energy leadership. Imagine if we doubled it. Opening areas in the Atlantic, Pacific and Eastern Gulf of Mexico could lead to production of more than 3.5 million barrels of oil equivalent per day – almost twice the amount EIA projects we'll hit next year in the western Gulf alone.

Safety is Top Priority in Offshore Energy

Working together, the industry and government have made great strides in continually improving offshore safety. Learn more about the Center for Offshore Safety and industry's comprehensive safety improvement efforts.



The economic benefits associated with that level of production are significant. Between 2017 and 2035, according to Quest Offshore Resources analysis, expanded offshore production could:

- Create nearly 840,000 new American jobs
- Grow our economy by up to \$70.2 billion per year
- Raise over \$200 billion in cumulative revenue for the government

That kind of success doesn't happen overnight. The impending production increases in the Gulf of Mexico are the result of leasing plans set in motion years ago. That's why the leasing plan for 2017 – 2022, currently being finalized by the Department of Interior, is so important. The new five-year plan will determine whether additional states will join the American energy revolution or continue to sit on the sidelines.

The proposed plan includes only one potential Atlantic lease sale, and not until 2021, but it's a start. New polling shows a majority of voters in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina – including majorities of Democrats, Republicans and Independents – support offshore energy production. On a national level, polls show strong voter support for producing more domestic oil and natural gas resources, including offshore.

Besides being at odds with voter preferences, current policies that keep 87 percent of federal offshore acreage off limits to development are not in America's interests. Protecting and building on the extensive economic and energy security benefits generated by the American energy revolution should be the Obama administration's top priority in its next five-year leasing plan.

Sincerely,

Jack Gerard
 President and CEO
 API

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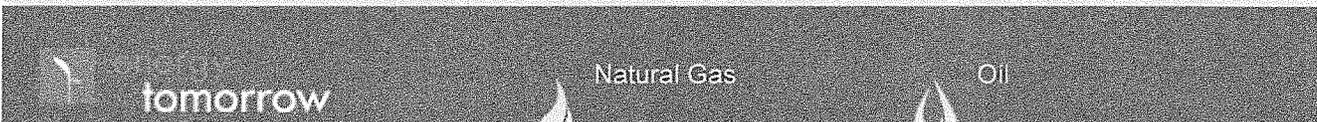
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Energy Tomorrow is a project of the American Petroleum Institute – the only national trade association that represents all aspects of America's oil and natural gas industry – speaking for the industry to the public, Congress and the Executive Branch, state governments and the media.

THE *people* OF AMERICA'S OIL AND NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY

Rapid growth in natural gas production, thanks to vast shale deposits and hydraulic fracturing, is reviving America's manufacturing and other sectors while helping reduce U.S. carbon emissions to a 20-year low.

U.S. crude oil production has reached its highest point since 1997, due to production from shale and other tight rock formations, while reducing imports to their lowest level in more than 20 years.



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