



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
M. MICHAEL ROUNDS, GOVERNOR

June 26, 2006

The Honorable Richard W. Pombo
Chairman
Committee on Resources
United States House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6201

Dear Chairman Pombo:

I write to offer my support for H.R. 4761, the Deep Ocean Energy and Resources Act, that would open up areas in the Outer Continental Shelf to oil and natural gas production. If successful, this Act will help secure an additional supply of energy to meet critical agricultural, industrial and consumer needs in South Dakota. I commend you for your leadership on this issue.

As you know, South Dakota's primary industry is agriculture. Our farmers grow the crops that produce the food for American families and families around the world. We are also the link to renewable fuels, a positive step to securing our energy future. A new supply of natural gas from the offshore is a key component to a competitive agricultural economy and renewable fuels. Without affordable natural gas, our producers won't have the resources to purchase the fertilizer they need to grow their crops or to produce ethanol.

Thank you for your continued leadership on the offshore production issue. Again, I extend my full support for your efforts and I stand to assist you in any way to secure passage of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Michael Rounds".

M. Michael Rounds

MMR:ls