



Agriculture Energy Alliance

Representing agriculture as a producer and consumer of energy

June 3, 2008

The Honorable Norman D. Dicks, Chair
The Honorable James P. Moran
The Honorable Maurice D. Hinchey
The Honorable John W. Oliver
The Honorable Alan B. Mollohan
The Honorable Tom Udall
The Honorable Ben Chandler
The Honorable Ed Pastor

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt, Ranking Member
The Honorable John E. Peterson
The Honorable Jo Ann Emerson
The Honorable Virgil H. Goode, Jr.
The Honorable Ken Calvert

Re: Support Abercrombie/Peterson Amendment on Offshore Natural Gas Production

Dear Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies:

The 109 members of the Agriculture Energy Alliance (AEA) urge you to vote in favor of the Abercrombie/Peterson Amendment removing the moratorium on natural gas production in the Outer Continental Shelf. This vote could come up as early as next week. The vote will be taken as part of the deliberations in the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies.

AEA supports amendments to the Interior Appropriations bill offered by Congressmen Abercrombie (D-HI) and Peterson (R-PA) that would allow for additional offshore natural gas production.

Our business is to grow abundant food and fiber for America and people around the world. Experts say that food production will need to double in the next 20 years to meet rising global demand. But today, tight natural gas supplies have driven U.S. farm inputs and energy prices to all time highs, increasing farm production costs. The U.S. farm sector is being weakened by constraints on onshore and offshore natural gas development, even as global demand for food is growing every year. By wisely developing and utilizing our own national resources, Congress can help ensure that farming remains an economically viable occupation.

Onshore and offshore natural gas production is a vote for food security. The farm sector depends on significant amounts of natural gas for food processing, irrigation, crop drying, heating farm buildings and homes and the production of crop protection chemicals and fertilizer.

We urge you to support Congressmen Abercrombie's and Peterson's amendment allowing for additional offshore natural gas production. Additional supply of American energy resources is critical to maintaining a competitive agricultural sector.

Sincerely,

Members of the Agriculture Energy Alliance

**Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural Council of California
Agricultural Retailers Assn.
Agriliance, LLC
Agrium Inc.
Alabama Crop Management Assn.
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Plant Food Corporation
Arkansas Plant Food Assn.
Ben-Trei Ltd.
Brandt Consolidated
CF Industries
CHS Inc.
California League of Food Processors
Chemical Industry Council of Illinois
CoBank (CO)
Colorado Farm Bureau
Colorado Grain & Feed Assn.
Crop Production Services
CropLife America
D.B. Western, Inc.—Texas
DeBruce Fertilizer, Inc.
Delaware Maryland Agribusiness Assn.
Diamond of California
Fairfield Index Inc.
Far West Agribusiness Assn. (WA)
Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Assn.
Florida Strawberry Growers Assn.
Georgia Agribusiness Council, Inc.
Georgia Feed & Grain Assn., Inc.
GROWMARK, Inc.
Hardee County Farm Bureau (FL)
Hartung Brothers, Inc.
Hawaiian Alliance for Responsible
Technology & Science
Helena Chemical Company
Hillsborough County Agriculture Economic
Development Council (FL)
Hillsborough County Farm Bureau (FL)
Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Assn.
Indiana Grain & Feed Association**

**Indiana Plant Food & Ag Chemicals Assn.
Intermountain Farmers Assn.
International Chemical Corporation
International Commodities Export Corp.
International Raw Materials Ltd.
Iowa Institute for Cooperatives
JR Simplot Company
Jim Hicks & Company
Johnston Enterprises
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Assn.
Kansas Grain and Feed Assn.
Land O' Lakes, Inc.
Louisiana Ammonia Producers
MFA Incorporated
Mayo Fertilizer Inc.
Michigan Agri-Business Assn.
Minnesota Agri-Growth Council
Minnesota Crop Production Retailers
Missouri Ag Industries Council, Inc.
Monsanto Company
Montana Agricultural Business Assn.
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Chicken Council
National Corn Growers Assn.
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Grange
National Renderers Association, Inc.
National Sorghum Producers
National Turkey Federation
Nebraska Agri-Business Assn.
North Dakota Agricultural Assn.
Northern Ag Suppliers, Inc.
Oklahoma Ag Retailers
Oregon Farm Bureau
Oregon Wheat Growers League
Pennsylvania Assn. of Milk Dealers
Plant Food Association of North
Carolina, Inc.
Polk County Farm Bureau
PotashCorp
Rocky Mountain Agri-Business Assn. (CO)
Sarasota County Farm Bureau (FL)**

Society of American Florists
South Carolina Fertilizer and
Agrichemical Assn.
South Dakota Agri-Business Assn.
Southern Crop Production Assn. (GA)
Southern States Cooperative, Inc.
Tennessee Agricultural Production Assn.
Tennessee Farmers Cooperative
Terra Industries
Texas Ag Industries Assn.
Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council
Texas Grain & Feed Assn.
The Andersons, Inc.
The Fertilizer Institute
The McGregor Company

The Mosaic Company
3-D Fertilizer
USA Rice Federation
United Suppliers, Inc.
Virginia Crop Production Assn.
Virginia Poultry Federation, Inc.
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Washington State Council of Farmer
Cooperatives
West Central Inc.
Western Peanut Growers Association (TX)
Western Plant Health Association (CA)
Wheeler Bros. Grain and Fertilizer Co.
Willard Agri-Service of Frederick, Inc. (MD)
Wisconsin Crop Production Association