



BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

November 20, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Reid, Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

As Congress concludes the 2015 legislative session, the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) encourages you to lift the restrictions on U.S. crude oil exports. Removing these antiquated restrictions will help ensure America remains globally competitive, improve our economy, and protect national security interests. Importantly, full engagement in the global oil market will not increase greenhouse gas emissions or the price that consumers pay for a gallon of gasoline.

The export ban is a form of resource nationalism that undermines our nation's fundamental commitment to efficient markets, affecting our ability to promote free and fair trade. From a foreign policy and international security vantage point, erasing this protectionist policy demonstrates that the United States is doing our part to strengthen global energy markets. By contributing to the pool of global spare capacity, we also increase our leverage over those who seek to manipulate energy supplies for their own geopolitical gain.

There is little question that lifting export restrictions will increase U.S. production. While no one can confidently predict the price impact of adding 1-2 percent of additional crude to the global market, the basic dynamics of supply and demand should give us all high confidence that increasing supply will ultimately lower the costs of crude oil and gasoline, and more importantly reduce the vulnerability of the global market to disruptions leading to price spikes.

Furthermore, perpetuating inefficient markets through trade restrictions in the hope of somehow reducing global reliance on fossil fuels is not an effective strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The only effective strategy to reduce petroleum dependence is to reduce demand by increasing efficiency and developing alternative options. The United States must capitalize on the economic strength provided by increased energy production to double down on clean energy research and development. However, the way forward will not be illuminated by perpetuating ineffective requirements from the past.

Ending crude oil export restrictions protects U.S. consumers, creates jobs and fortifies our global security interests. We hope that Congress will capitalize on this significant opportunity before the end of the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Grumet". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J" and "G".

Jason Grumet
President
Bipartisan Policy Center