

NEWS RELEASE

from the office of

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SHIMKUS PRAISES EXPIRATION OF OFFSHORE DRILLING BAN

Washington, DC...."Nearly all year energy has been one of biggest issues we have faced in Washington," stated Congressman John Shimkus (R, Illinois-19). "And today we can celebrate - briefly - the expiration of the ban on offshore and oil shale drilling.

"For over 20 years Congress has banned the development of oil shale and most Outer Continental Shelf drilling through an appropriations measure," he explained. "This year the President took what steps he could take to lift the ban, and our loud protests in the House forced the Democratic leadership to allow this ban to expire on September 30.

"I have been an outspoken advocate for increasing our domestic production of energy, as we rely too much on imported oil and the fact that developing American energy means creating American jobs.

"This expiration is only half of the battle," Shimkus noted. "We have won this half, but now we must not let a new Congress put the offshore ban back in place next year. We are going to have to continue to speak up for increased domestic oil production in order to keep these energy resources available to us.

"I plan to push for expedited leasing and permitting so that these offshore areas can become productive oil fields as soon as possible," Shimkus added.

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