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6TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER
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AND THE INTERNET



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On November 19th, you received a letter from 25 U.S. Senators, which included no Republican signatories, asking you to seal the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) from oil and gas drilling operations. I agree with my colleagues on the other side of the Capitol that ANWR "is truly one of America's greatest wild places"; however, in the fifty years since ANWR was established, there have been adequate technological advances whereby it is possible to increase our nation's domestic energy supply while preserving the sanctity of nature.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the former Minerals Management Service (MMS) have both assessed the oil and gas reserves in ANWR, finding the mean USGS/MMS assessment to be 10.6 billion barrels of oil and 8.6 trillion cubic feet of gas. Simply stated, these are domestic natural resources that we can no longer afford to ignore. While I acknowledge that it would take approximately 10 years for production to become operational once ANWR was opened, respectfully, this is not an excuse for continuing to kick the can down the road. Every barrel of oil produced in ANWR is one less barrel that we need to import from the Middle East. America is not a country that should solely depend on others for what we have in our own backyard, even if what is in our backyard can only meet a portion of our needs.

As ranking Republican on the Energy and Environment Subcommittee, I understand the politics of ANWR very well, and acknowledge that the base of your party is uncomfortable with lifting the moratorium on exploration and production in ANWR. Nevertheless, I urge you to put our nation's needs ahead of politics, and implore you not to make it impossible to ever explore for natural resources in ANWR.

Of course, I do not need to remind you that the unemployment rate is too high and our fiscal situation is dire. Opening up ANWR would help alleviate these economic problems, as detailed in an ICF International Study prepared for the American Petroleum Institute published in December of 2008. That study concluded that allowing exploration of ANWR would lead to approximately 62,000 additional jobs in the year 2030 alone. Over the lifetime of an open ANWR, the government revenue would be *in excess* of \$164 billion. Those are real jobs and real revenues, neither of which would be created by increasing the size and scope of the federal government or by further taxing our already over-taxed citizens.

I urge you not to permanently block access to the abundant natural resources that lie in ANWR. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Fred Upton
Member of Congress