

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

H.R. 156: Lift the Ban on Crude Oil Exports

Dear Colleague:

Restrictions on crude oil exports that made sense in the wake of the Arab Oil Embargo are no longer justified. To harness the full potential of America's energy boom, we need to adopt policies that maximize output, promote economic growth, and make us more secure. Unfortunately, the 1970s era ban on crude oil exports stands in the way of all of these goals which is why I introduced H.R. 156, the *Crude Oil Export Act*, to lift the forty year old ban on exports. I hope you will join me in cosponsoring this legislation which will lower gas prices, create jobs, grow our economy, and bolster our national security.

Lifting the ban on crude oil exports will lower gasoline prices. Despite scare tactics that suggest otherwise, numerous independent studies have concluded that gasoline prices would not rise as a result of lifting the ban on crude oil exports. In fact, a September 2014 [report](#) by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that removing crude oil export restrictions will actually decrease gasoline prices by 1.5 to 13 cents per gallon for American consumers. As the Energy Information Administration (EIA) pointed out in its October 2014 [analysis](#) on gasoline prices, "the effect that a relaxation of current limitations on U.S. crude oil exports would have on U.S. gasoline prices would likely depend on its effect on international crude oil prices, such as Brent, rather than its effect on domestic crude prices."

Lifting the ban on crude oil exports will create jobs. By some [estimates](#), the increased economic activity resulting from allowing crude to be exported would support 964,000 jobs by 2018, a quarter of which will be added in states that produce essentially no crude oil. This job growth is caused by increased production by as much as 3 million barrels of oil per day.

Lifting the ban on crude oil exports will grow our economy. In September 2014, a comprehensive Bookings Institution [study](#) found that taking full advantage of crude oil exports could increase GDP by more than \$1.8 trillion and reduce unemployment by an annual average of 200,000 from 2015-2020. IHS also concluded that lifting the ban will increase average household income by \$391 annually and save motorists \$265 billion between 2016 and 2030.

Lifting the ban on crude oil exports will bolster our national security. According to a Council on Foreign Relations [memorandum](#), "liberalizing the crude oil export regime would advance U.S. foreign policy." The Heritage Foundation [agrees](#) that "removing restrictions on crude oil exports could improve national security and geopolitics around the world." Guy Caruso, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic International Studies and a former administrator for the Energy Information Administration, [observes](#) that lifting the ban will "add diversity of supply and a cushion against disrupted supply in places like Iran and Libya." Indeed, a recently leaked European Union [trade document](#) made clear that Russia's energy stranglehold on Ukraine and other countries demands a "security of supply" from the U.S.

I believe our choice is clear. We can cling to an outdated policy that gives us a false sense of security or we can acknowledge its flaws and modernize our nation's energy policies to maximize our full potential. If you have questions or would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact andy.taylor@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael McCaul
Member of Congress