George C. Landrith President & CEO



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Frontiers of Freedom released the following statement by its president, George Landrith, in strong support of H.R. 702 — Joe Barton's (R-Tex.) — Legislation to Prohibit Restrictions on the Export of Crude Oil.

This important legislation would end the 1970's ban on exporting crude oil. This outdated policy was a response to the Arab oil embargo of the early 1970s and the associated fears of a domestic energy shortage. There were long lines to buy gasoline and restrictions on when and how much consumers could buy. But that was more than 40 years ago. A lot has changed since then.

It is time for a Twenty-First Century energy policy and allowing crude oil exports would be an important step in the right direction. Today, the U.S. is one of the world's leading energy producers. Our laws should not bottle up our economic and energy strength.

We urge all Americans to become aware of the benefits of repealing the outdated crude oil export ban. The United States has had an energy renaissance. What little economic growth we have seen in the past seven years has been the result of the tremendous growth in our energy production — making America one of the leading producers of oil and natural gas.

As a result of this domestic energy growth, the US has grown less dependent on foreign imports. We are no longer a nation with fears of energy scarcity. Instead, we have become a nation of tremendous energy wealth. By allowing the export of crude oil, we would experience a continued growth in the energy sector of our economy. This would help fuel growth well beyond the energy sector.

Lifting the export ban would add hundreds of thousands of jobs to our slow moving economy and billions of dollars to our GDP. Interestingly, it would also reduce domestic gas prices because it would loosen up and fuel the supply chain leading to lower prices at the pump.

We also see an important strategic benefit of lifting the ban. It would likely reduce the world prices of crude which would give Putin's Russia and the Iranians less profits as they seek to fund their destabilizing foreign objectives. Ronald Reagan not only used missile defense to defeat Soviet communism, but he worked to reduce the price of oil as a way of denying them the funding to continue their domination of Eastern Europe. We should do whatever we can to weaken the ability of Putin to fund mischief and adventurism and Iran to fund terror and violence around the globe.

The bottom line is simple — this legislation is a win for our economy and a win for our national security. It is time for the House to pass this important legislation. We urge all Americans to let their representatives know of their support for this important economic and national security reform.