



September 10, 2015

The Honorable Joe Barton  
2107 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Barton,

With Congress is poised to consider lifting the ban on exporting domestically produced crude oil, I'm writing on behalf of the 1,200 members of the Greater Houston Partnership and their nearly 600,000 employees to thank you for your leadership on this issue and encourage you to continue pushing for the repeal of this outdated policy. As the Chairman Emeritus of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, you understand the impact lifting the ban would have on the Texas economy and the Houston business community particularly appreciates your leadership on HR 702 that is being marked up in committee this week.

As you know, the United States is in the midst of an energy renaissance. Meanwhile, a ban on exporting crude oil was put in place since 1975 at a time when our energy policy was characterized by scarcity. In 2014, the U.S. recorded the largest growth in oil production in the world and became the world's largest oil producer. U.S. production increased by 1.6 million barrels per day and, as a result, net imports declined. In Houston, lifting the crude oil export ban would create and preserve jobs, spur economic growth in the region, lower gasoline prices and leverage Houston's position as the nation's top exporting metro.

The oil and gas industry continues to be the main driver of Houston's economy and supports hundreds of thousands of jobs. IHS Energy concluded that lifting the crude oil export ban will result in an average 22 percent increase in total supply chain employment across all Houston-area congressional districts.

It is time for energy policies to catch up to the new realities of the industry and reflect the current era of energy abundance. We encourage you to continue your work on lifting the crude oil export ban.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bob Harvey' in a cursive script.

Bob Harvey  
President and CEO  
Greater Houston Partnership