



August 25, 2015

Dear Representative,

Independent Women's Voice, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization for mainstream women, men and families, urges you to support H.R. 702, a bill that would lift the 40-year-old federal restriction on the export of crude oil. Enacted in the 1970s as a measure of protection against a domestic energy shortage, the ban no longer has utility when considering that the United States is now the number one producer of oil in the world.

Our nation is deeply vested in free trade. In fact, the U.S. economy has flourished under the system that enables us to export our products around the world. It should be no different with oil. The current ban puts the United States at a competitive disadvantage with the rest of the world, preventing the full realization of the economic benefits tied to increased production. As former Senior Vice President of NERA Economic Consulting Dr. W. David Montgomery testified, "Restrictions on oil exports reduce U.S. GDP, slow down job growth and recovery from the recession and cause higher gasoline prices."

It is no surprise then that a number of recent studies have found that H.R. 702 will create millions of jobs, increase domestic oil production, reduce gasoline prices and strengthen national security. Furthermore, these economic benefits would be widespread throughout the American economy, extending to virtually all 50 states. Simply put, lifting the ban is the right move for our economy and for our nation.

Independent Women's Voice is proud to advocate H.R. 702 and we thank you in advance for supporting this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Carrie Lukas
Vice President for Policy

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carrie Lukas".