



February 28, 2023

The Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Chair  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1332 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Grijalva,

Since 1923, Louisiana Midcontinent Oil and Gas Association (LMOGA) represents all sectors of the oil and gas industry in Louisiana and across the Gulf of Mexico. Importantly, LMOGA represents the energy producers and refiners along the Gulf Coast who produce nearly 20% of our nation's energy, refine 45% of the total U.S. petroleum, and process 51% of the nation's natural gas. Our industry supports thousands of high wage jobs across the Gulf South, serviced by businesses in every state in the Union. In Louisiana alone, the oil and gas activities are 26% of Louisiana's GDP, and the industry accounts for over \$4 billion in state and local tax revenue.

We write today to voice our support for the *TAP American Energy Act* as it will bring much needed certainty to our industry in the Gulf of Mexico so that we can continue to produce energy that meets nearly 16% of our nation's energy demand and will strengthen our communities' resiliency to coastal land loss. Importantly, the legislation would mandate two area-wide lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico, direct the Department of the Interior to complete a new Five-Year OCS leasing Program this year, and improve the development of leasing programs and lease sales moving forward by setting predictable and achievable timeframes.

When President Biden paused federal oil and gas lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico, our industry faced unprecedented uncertainty leading to record-high gas prices for consumers. The recently announced Lease Sale 259, issued in accordance with mandates in the Inflation Reduction Act, is the first in 15 months since the Department of the Interior held a lease sale after federal court action. For the first time ever, there is a lapse in the Five Year Leasing Program for the Outer Continental Shelf. The TAP American Energy Act would build on the leasing provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act and ensure lease sales will continue in the Gulf of Mexico and the Department of the Interior will issue a five-year plan for the subsequent years in a timely manner.

The TAP American Energy Act also provides Gulf coast energy producing states with a larger share of revenue from offshore energy development, bringing much-needed investments to our Coast, especially in Louisiana, to combat coastal land loss. LMOGA strongly supports these provisions and believes strongly that we must restore our coast to sustain both our livelihoods and our environment for generations to come.

LMOGA also supports the *BUILDER Act* sponsored by Louisiana Representative Garret Graves. As the Representative knows well, permitting delay and uncertainty, largely due to the arduous administrative review process often holds up much needed infrastructure needed for our members to bring American energy to market. Louisiana in particular is at the precipice of a





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robust amount of new infrastructure build out as it works to develop and deploy new renewable energy offshore and its carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS) industry. From permit renewals for the nearly 50,000 miles of existing pipelines in Louisiana, build out of new infrastructure to capture carbon, or laying cable in the Outer Continental Shelf for offshore wind development, the BUILDER Act will help bring certainty to the process and make our energy system in Louisiana transformative. We thank the Committee for considering these bills and urge their swift passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tommy Faucheux".

Tommy Faucheux  
LMOGA President

