



March 25, 2026

The Honorable Pete Stauber
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources

The Honorable Yassamin Ansari
Ranking Member, House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources

1626 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Stauber and Ranking Member Ansari,

The American Petroleum Institute (API) writes to express our support for the introduction of H.R. 7831 *License to Drill Act*. API represents all segments of America's oil and natural gas industry, which supports more than 11 million U.S. jobs and is backed by a growing grassroots movement of millions of Americans. Our approximately 600 members produce, process, and distribute most of the nation's energy.

This legislation represents an important step toward continuing a predictable, efficient, and durable permitting framework for oil and natural gas development on federal lands. A timely and transparent permitting process is essential to maintaining American energy leadership domestically and abroad. Federal leasing and development programs are a cornerstone of domestic energy production, supporting high-paying jobs, strengthening national security, and providing reliable energy to consumers at home and our allies globally.

In particular, API strongly supports the continued collection of Application for Permits to Drill (APD) fees, which have played a critical role in funding BLM operations and ensuring seamless, efficient processing of permits. This user-funded model has provided consistency and reliability for both regulators and operators, enabling timely reviews and minimizing disruptions.

Since 2020, Congress has directed those APD fees to BLM's Permit Processing Improvement Fund. This Fund has been critical to efficient operations even during periods of uncertainty and has allowed critical BLM offices to ensure continued operations during



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government shutdowns. Thanks to this Fund, BLM could continue necessary permitting operations –avoiding unnecessary delays for ongoing projects.

Maintaining this funding mechanism is essential to preserving the operational stability that industry and regulators alike depend on. It ensures that BLM has the resources necessary to carry out its responsibilities effectively while supporting energy development on federal lands.

We appreciate the Committee’s leadership on this issue and your continued commitment to advancing policies that promote our energy dominance in the United States and abroad. API and our member companies stand ready to work with you and the Committee to advance H.R. 7831.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jack Cramton'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Jack Cramton
Vice President, Federal Relations