



Leo W. Gerard  
International President

June 8, 2015

U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Oppose Senate Amendment #1486 to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), and Support Senate Amendment #1645

Dear Senator:

This week the Senate is expected to consider Senate Amendment #1486, offered to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by Senator Cornyn, which would express the Sense of the Senate in favor of repealing restrictions on exports of domestic crude oil. **We strongly urge you to oppose the Cornyn amendment.**

The United Steelworkers union (USW) represents workers at 63 of the nation's refineries, which accounts for two-thirds of domestic refining capacity. Refinery jobs are good paying jobs which support over \$1.8 million in value-added to the economy per employee. Lifting the ban would not only prove detrimental to the jobs of the men and women employed at U.S. refineries, but also to the communities that rely on the tax base generated from these wages.

The crude oil export ban has helped the U.S. refining industry realign to domestic crudes, thereby investing in America's energy infrastructure and energy security. As a result, U.S. refiners have added 100,000 barrels per day of capacity from the year previous. Domestic refineries are also positioned to increase their use of super light crude by more than 730,000 barrels per day, combined, by 2016. This would easily compensate for the projected growth in U.S. production.

Our nation is not self-sufficient in oil as 44 percent of the crude oil processed in U.S. refineries is imported. In fact, at a recent House Energy & Power Subcommittee hearing, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz stated that the U.S. imports 7 million barrels of crude oil per day to meet domestic demand. Secretary Moniz also noted that for every barrel the U.S. would export, we would have to import an additional barrel. This would detract from our nation's goal of achieving energy independence and security.

In addition to increasing imports of foreign oil, lifting the export ban could also increase costs to U.S. consumers. Barclays, in a recent report, found that U.S. consumers saved \$11.4 billion at the pump in 2014 due to lower U.S. oil prices. Additionally, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) found that American

households are saving, on average, \$700 per year from lower fuel prices compared to a year ago. These savings cannot be overlooked and are critical not only to millions of Americans, but also to the health of the overall economy.

**The Senate will also consider an amendment offered by Senator Markey, Senate Amendment #1645, to the NDAA as a Side-by-Side to the Cornyn amendment.** The Markey amendment would express the Sense of the Senate that crude oil exports to our allies should not be consistent with the national interest if those exports would either: increase U.S. energy prices for American consumers and business, or increase the reliance of the United States on imported oil. **We strongly urge you to support the Markey amendment.**

Exporting crude will negatively impact U.S. refining jobs, undermine our nation's refining capability, raise fuel prices for U.S. consumers and businesses, and make us more reliant on both imported crude oil and imported petroleum products. For these reasons **we urge you to OPPOSE the Cornyn amendment to the NDAA (SA#1486) or any other attempts to repeal the export ban of American crude oil, and SUPPORT the Markey amendment to the NDAA (SA#1645).**

Sincerely,



Leo W. Gerard  
International President

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