



June 8, 2015

Dear Senator,

As organizations which have a significant interest in how our energy policy and climate policy proceed in the future, **we urge you to oppose 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. Lifting this ban would not only impact our environment, but it will cost the U.S. refinery jobs.

The export ban is critical to allow U.S. refineries the ability to comply with upcoming Environmental Protection Agency Tier three sulfur standard rules. These critical standards will lower the overall sulfur content in gasoline from 30ppm to 10ppm, reducing asthma attacks and eliminating millions of tons of harmful emissions from the atmosphere. To do so, the U.S. refining industry needs to make critical but attainable infrastructure upgrades. Lifting the crude oil export ban will undermine refiners ability to invest and comply with the regulations and will cost the U.S. jobs in the refining sector..

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.

Lifting the crude oil export ban will also increase greenhouse gas emissions, hampering our nation's efforts to combat climate change and lower U.S. emissions. American refinery workers are our first and last line of defense for community safety in the face of an oil industry that all too often puts profits before people. Instead of exporting pollution and good jobs to other countries, we need to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and improve the safety and health practices of the U.S. oil industry. In a recent report, the Government Accountability Office recommended keeping the crude oil ban in place. The GAO quoted a report by Resources for the Future which estimated that lifting the ban would increase carbon dioxide emissions worldwide by almost 22 million metric tons per year.

For the benefit of the global climate and good paying, union refinery jobs, we strongly urge you to **oppose Senate Amendment #1486, offered to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by Senator Cornyn**.

Sincerely,

Mike Brune
Executive Director
Sierra Club

Leo W. Gerard
International President
United Steelworkers