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**To:** Lt. Governor's OfficeLtGov@scstatehouse.gov  
**Date:** 8/22/2018 10:37:48 AM  
**Subject:** Offshore Energy: A Safe Path for Jobs, Energy Security

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August 22, 2018

## Offshore Energy: A Safe Path for Jobs, Energy Security

Dear Kevin,

The American energy revolution is going strong, supplying affordable, reliable natural gas and oil that make our economy and national security stronger.

America's natural gas and oil industry generates economic benefits across the nation – in producing and non-producing states alike – supporting **10.3 million U.S. jobs** and delivering energy savings that have spurred a manufacturing renaissance.

And that's with some of our most promising resource areas off limits to energy development. Current policy keeps **94 percent** of federal offshore acreage closed to energy exploration. Imagine the growth in **job creation and energy security** if we could access the estimated 90 billion barrels of oil and 327 trillion cubic feet of natural gas awaiting discovery on the U.S. outer continental shelf (OCS).

We don't have to imagine. A recent study projects energy development in the Atlantic could generate nearly 265,000 new jobs along the East Coast and across the country while Eastern Gulf of Mexico development could create nearly 165,000 nationwide jobs, including 152,000 on the Gulf Coast.

There's no doubt **the U.S. will need more natural gas and oil** in the coming decades. Government estimates show these resources will supply an estimated 60 percent of U.S. energy needs in 2040. We have a wealth of energy resources waiting to be unlocked offshore, and a combination of technological innovation and comprehensive safety standards makes offshore exploration **safer than ever**.

To quote former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson, national co-chair of the **Explore Offshore** coalition: "The choice is not whether to produce more natural gas and oil. The choice is to produce it here – under the world's best environmental standards – or to see energy production and its economic and security benefits shift to other nations."

The Interior Department's plan to expand access for offshore exploration recognizes the importance of making the right choice. Let's move forward with **responsible offshore energy** and the economic and security benefits it promises.

Sincerely,

**Mike Sommers**  
President and CEO  
API

### Record Refinery Performance Lends Confidence for Hurricane Season

As we head into what historically is the heart of the annual hurricane season, America's refiners have never been in a stronger position to deliver the fuels we all need – which is good news for consumers. [Learn more about U.S. refining success and the industry's year-round work to stay prepared for hurricanes.](#)



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