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To: Lt. Governor's OfficeLTGov@scstatehouse.gov
Date: 2/14/2018 11:09:04 AM
Subject: Safe Offshore Energy Exploration Benefits Economy, Security

February 14, 2018

Safe Offshore Energy Exploration Benefits Economy, Security

Dear Kevin,

The economic and security benefits of [expanding offshore energy exploration](#) are undeniable.

Safe [offshore production](#) – largely concentrated in a small section of the Gulf of Mexico -- has supplied more than 1 million barrels of oil per day to the U.S. economy for the last 20 years. Unlocking natural gas and oil resources in additional offshore areas could more than double that, further reducing reliance on overseas energy while supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs.

As a [Washington Post editorial](#) puts it: “We have long supported opening more U.S. waters to offshore drilling. As long as the economy requires oil, it must come from somewhere, and better the United States than a country with much weaker environmental oversight. It is arrogant of Americans to benefit from the interconnected global oil market yet insist that their shores remain closed.”

The Meaning of 10 Million Barrels per Day

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports that in November, U.S. oil production hit 10.038 million barrels per day – the most in half a century. [Learn more about the benefits of plentiful domestic energy](#), including falling imports, rising self-sufficiency, economic growth and greater strength for our country around the globe.

A majority of U.S. voters support [increased domestic natural gas and oil production](#), and experts confirm we can safely develop our wealth of offshore energy resources without jeopardizing other vital priorities. As the Interior Department's proposed plan for offshore energy expansion proceeds through the review process, the facts point to one conclusion: [U.S. energy security](#) will be better off the more offshore options we keep on the table.

Sincerely,

Erik Milito
Group Director, Upstream
API

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