



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

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ATR MAY RATE ANY AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5386 THAT WILL REMOVE A PROVISION TO LIFT THE MORATORIA FOR NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION ON THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF (OCS)

Today, the House of Representatives will vote on H.R. 5386, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2007. Prior to final passage, an amendment will be voted on to strip the provision that would lift the moratoria on natural gas exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

Natural gas exploration needed by the American people to increase domestic energy and job production. **The federal government estimates that there are 406 trillion cubic feet along the OCS. Current production in the lower 48 states amounts to 9.5 trillion cubic feet per year which will lead to more than a 50-year supply of natural gas.**

The moratoria lift is an essential first step to provide Americans with access to their natural resources and to reduce our reliance on foreign energy sources. **Yet this is not equivalent to allowing actual production to take place.** A Presidential withdrawal preventing any OCS energy production still exists, and would have to be lifted before any production moves forward. Also, authorizing legislation must also be enacted instructing the Interior Department how and where to provide for OCS production, as well as grant them the authority to issue natural gas-only leases.

ATR urges Members to oppose any amendment to remove provisions lifting the OCS moratoria for natural gas exploration.

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