

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
202/463-5310

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, commends the Committee for demonstrating bipartisan leadership in introducing the "Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015," and expeditiously moving to mark up this broad-ranging legislation.

America's energy landscape has changed dramatically since Congress last passed a multi-title energy bill and it is crucial that federal energy policy reflect these changes in order to maximize and prolong the benefits America's energy renaissance is producing. This draft bill takes initial steps to address many such areas of high priority for American businesses, including natural gas exports, electricity transmission siting, and energy efficiency. For instance, as part of its all-of-the-above energy policy, the Chamber supports S. 720, the "Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2015," and the energy efficiency provisions included in the "Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015" from S. 720, which are no-mandate provisions that would advance energy efficiency through reduced regulatory burden, increased transparency, and a focus on the federal government as a first mover to save taxpayer dollars on energy bills.

While the "Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015" is noticeably silent on the issue of exporting domestically-produced crude oil, the Chamber commends Chairman Murkowski and Sen. Heitkamp for separately introducing the "Offshore Production and Energizing National Security Act of 2015" (OPENS Act). This crucial bill would not only create a path for new energy production on the Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico, Alaska, and South Atlantic while revenues generated be shared with adjacent states, but it also would rescind the 40-year old ban on exporting crude oil.

No area of energy policy is in more need of update to reflect the vastly different energy disposition the U.S. now faces compared to when these policies were implemented in the 1970s. The current policy constraining barring oil exports is costing America's economy jobs and new

growth at a time the country can least afford it. The Chamber encourages the Committee to favorably report the OPENS Act before the August work period.

The Chamber appreciates the Committee's foresight and leadership on these important issues and looks forward to continuing to work with the Committee on these bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Bruce Josten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." and last name "Josten" being more prominent.

R. Bruce Josten

cc: Members of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources