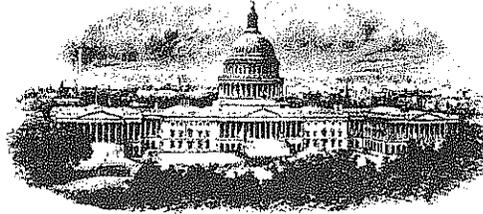


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COMMITTEE ON
RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION
REPUBLICAN
POLICY COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
March 9, 2011

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

With oil prices above \$100 per barrel and gasoline in some places already exceeding \$4 per gallon, I write with a suggestion to help increase domestic oil production, reduce imports of oil and generate new wealth, revenue and employment. You have it within your power to put Americans back to work by putting the Trans-Alaska Pipeline (TAPS) back to work transporting American energy.

TAPS is America's largest pipeline, built to carry 2.1 million barrels of oil per day. It is a tremendous national security asset but is currently transporting *less than one-third of its capacity*, requiring imports of 1.4 million barrels per day to make up for lost American production. At today's price of oil, that adds more than \$51 billion per year to our trade deficit and spent to create jobs in foreign lands. As context, 1.4 million barrels per day is more than Texas produces.

TAPS does not run at one-third of its capacity because of a lack of Alaskan oil; rather, because of federal impediments to further development. I will just mention a few:

- **ANWR** holds an estimated 10.4 billion barrels of oil, worth over \$1 trillion to the U.S. economy today. It would increase U.S. proven reserves by 50%. It is only 75 miles from TAPS, and its development is strongly supported by the Inupiat Eskimos who live there, as well as by the overwhelming majority of Alaskans. Royalties alone from federal production would exceed \$44 billion to Treasury, with much more in taxes.
- The National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (**NPRA**), an Indiana-sized area set aside in 1923 specifically for oil production, holds tremendous promise for oil and gas production, but has yet to produce one barrel commercially. The latest delay involves a failure by the U.S. Corps of Engineers to issue a permit for a pipeline to cross a river to allow a known oil discovery to be developed. TAPS itself crosses more than 500 rivers and streams.

- Alaska's **OCS** holds great promise, and has attracted huge investment potential. A recent study shows development of the 15 billion estimated barrels in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas would create 54,700 jobs annually, generate \$263 billion in government revenue and reduce our foreign oil dependence by nine percent for 35 years. To date, the U.S. government has not issued the final of 35 permits to allow billions of dollars of investment to be unleashed right here at home to produce American energy and wealth.

Mr. President, these are but *some* of the areas in Alaska that could contribute greatly to solving our foreign oil dependency problem while generating job-creating wealth at home. Supporting ANWR and exploration in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas would allow you to amend your oft-repeated lament that the U.S. "has only 2% of the world's oil." These areas would more than double those supplies.

Putting people to work, generating more revenue, reducing foreign imports and putting TAPS back to work would send a strong signal to world markets that the United States has not given up on putting its immense resources to work for our economy. It would reduce prices, now and into the future. The TAPS shortfall of 1.4 million barrels per day is equal to Libya's threatened exports, which as you know, have shaken the world's economy and American family budgets.

Reopening Alaska and refilling TAPS won't cost taxpayer money, it will generate hundreds of billions of dollars. The jobs created will not require funding, but will instead be created by money spent here, rather than abroad. Our national security will be improved by reducing the need to purchase oil from unsecure sources. It is supported by Alaskans.

I urge you to reassess your positions – and the positions of your agencies – on Alaska's energy potential and what it would mean for the nation. Let us work together to ensure the United States remains the "Shining City on the Hill" with all of its lights lit. Alaskans and I stand ready to contribute to America's economic and energy strength, and to help relieve the pain that Americans are feeling at the pump.

Sincerely,



DON YOUNG
Congressman for All Alaska

P.S.
lets
do
THIS.

