

350.org \* Alaska Wilderness League \* Amazon Watch \* Bay Area Refinery Corridor Coalition \* Bold Nebraska  
Center for Biological Diversity \* Climate Solutions  
Crockett-Rodeo United to Defend the Environment \* Earthjustice \* Energy Action Coalition  
Environment America \* Energy Action Coalition \* Food & Water Watch \* ForestEthics Foundation Earth  
Friends of the Earth \* Greenpeace USA \* Honor the Earth \* Idaho Conservation League \* Idle No More SF Bay  
Indigenous Environmental Network \* InterAmerican Clean Energy Institute \* League of Conservation Voters  
Leave it in the Ground Initiative \* Montana Environmental Information Center \* MoveOn.org  
Natural Resources Defense Council \* New Energy Economy \* Oil Change International  
Oceana \* Pittsburg Defense Council \* Public Citizen \* Puget Soundkeeper Alliance \* Rainforest Action Network  
Rising Tide Seattle \* Safe Climate Campaign \* San Francisco Baykeeper \* Sierra Club  
Southern Oregon Climate Action Now \* Sunflower Alliance \* Tar Sands Action Southern California  
Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services \* The Rachel Carson Council, Inc.  
Washington Environmental Council \* Waterkeeper Alliance \* Wica Agli \* Women's Earth and Climate Action  
Network

October 7, 2015

Dear Representative,

**On behalf of our millions of members, we, the undersigned organizations, urge you to stand up to Big Oil and defend the crude oil export ban from any attempts to repeal, rollback, or introduce exemptions to the existing law.** Legislation to lift the export ban would erode progress we've made protecting consumers, the environment, and combating climate change.

There is no doubt that repealing or weakening current law, which forbids crude oil from being exported, will significantly increase climate-disrupting carbon pollution at a time when leading scientists and world leaders agree we must urgently reduce these emissions. For example, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change<sup>1</sup>, among others, have confirmed that to keep climate change under the already dangerous 2 degrees Celsius level, the vast majority of the world's proven fossil fuel reserves must be left in the ground.

Simply put, we cannot burn the oil, gas, and coal reserves we have without increasing greenhouse gases to dangerous levels. Yet, lifting the ban on crude oil exports will encourage more production and the expansion of known reserves. In March 2014, the American Petroleum Institute (API) analyzed the production impact of lifting the crude oil export ban and found that it would increase production by 500,000 bpd.<sup>2</sup> An analysis conducted by Oil Change International made a similar prediction and estimated an average increase of more than 476,000 bpd by 2020.

Supporters of lifting the crude oil export ban have argued that when confronted by additional U.S. supply, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will reduce production in order to support higher oil prices. This conventional wisdom has been proven spectacularly wrong over the last year. In fact, global oil production could remain high and lead to dramatic increases in emissions.

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<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. IPCC Fifth Assessment: Synthesis Report. November 2014. P 63  
[http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5\\_SYR\\_FINAL\\_All\\_Topics.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5_SYR_FINAL_All_Topics.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> ICF International and EnSys Energy. "The Impacts of U.S. Crude Oil Exports on Domestic Crude Production, GDP, Employment, Trade, and Consumer Costs The Impacts of U.S. Crude Oil Exports on Domestic Crude Production, GDP, Employment, Trade, and Consumer Costs." American Petroleum Institute, March 31, 2014. <http://www.api.org/rss/~media/Files/Policy/LNG-Exports/LNG-primer/API-Crude-Exports-Study-by-ICF-3-31-2014.pdf>

Instead of repealing the current restrictions on exporting crude oil, the U.S. should play a leading role in international efforts to transition to clean energy and keep the world within safe climate limits. We are making great gains as a nation adopting strong climate change policies and any attempt to eliminate or weaken the crude oil export ban undermines these commitments.

Again, we urge you to stand up to the oil industry and vigorously defend the crude oil export ban.

Sincerely,

350.org	Montana Environmental Information Center
Alaska Wilderness League	MoveOn.org
Amazon Watch	Natural Resources Defense Council
Bay Area Refinery Corridor Coalition	New Energy Economy
Bold Nebraska	Oil Change International
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Climate Solutions	Pittsburg Defense Council
Crockett-Rodeo United to Defend the Environment	Public Citizen
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Energy Action Coalition Environment America	Rising Tide Seattle
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Food & Water Watch	San Francisco Baykeeper
ForestEthics Foundation Earth	Sierra Club
Friends of the Earth	Southern Oregon Climate Action Now
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