

September 15, 2015

Dear Representative:

As a coalition of the nation's largest labor and environmental groups, with their more than 16 million members and supporters, we urge you to oppose H.R. 702, a bill that would lift the long-standing ban on crude oil exports. Lifting the export ban would not only risk undoing recent gains in America's energy security, but would also threaten jobs, economic security, and the environment.

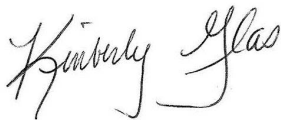
Refinery and related industry occupations are good-paying, middle class jobs that support more than \$1.8 million in value-added to the economy per employee, which translates to jobs that support families and sustain local economies and communities. Lifting the crude oil ban would provide an incentive for companies to move refining off-shore, which would prove detrimental not only to the jobs of the men and women employed at U.S. refineries, but also to the communities that rely on the tax base generated from these wages.

Lifting the export ban also undermines the efforts of the federal and state governments to encourage upgrades at refinery facilities to meet new environmental standards and other investments that will lower the environmental footprint at these facilities. One such example is the EPA Tier 3 sulfur standard rule, which will lower the overall sulfur content in gasoline from 30ppm to 10ppm, reducing asthma attacks and eliminating millions of tons of harmful emissions from the atmosphere.

In 2014, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported that lifting the export ban would increase greenhouse gases and other emissions and increase the risk of oil spills. In that report, the GAO referenced a report by Resources for the Future, which estimated that lifting the ban would increase carbon dioxide emissions worldwide by almost 22 million metric tons per year. What's more, shifting refining to parts of the world with lower environmental and labor standards may result in higher carbon emissions and greater environmental impacts overall.

Instead of exporting pollution and good jobs to other countries, we need to continue to improve safety and health practices in the U.S. oil industry and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Please oppose H.R. 702, a bill to lift the crude oil export ban, because of its harmful impacts on both workers and our environment.

Sincerely,



Kim Glas
Executive Director