

I want to inform you that today the House passed the first in a series of three bills to address rising gasoline prices and expand American energy production. H.R. 1230, the [Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act](#), would require the Obama Administration to promptly act on offshore lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and off the coast of Virginia that have been unnecessarily delayed or canceled. This initiative will lower energy costs, grow our economy and create jobs. I am committed to increasing production of American energy resources to address America's rapidly rising energy costs and boost our economy.

With gas well over \$4 a gallon, Northern Californians are struggling to pay their bills, operate their farms and run their small businesses. Instead of developing our tremendous oil and gas resources in response to rising global demand and unrest in the Middle East, this Administration has continued in the spirit of 'never letting a crisis go to waste' by using last year's oil spill to justify shutting down domestic energy production. I reject the Administration's inexcusable policy and are responding to the American people coping with record gas prices. I urge the Senate to act quickly on this bill to develop our resources, put the Gulf back to work and bring relief to our citizens and economy.