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Vice President

Energy & Resources Policy

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The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing nearly 14,000 small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, supports H.R. 702, a bill to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions, introduced by Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX). H.R. 702 removes market-distorting barriers to trade by repealing the federal ban on crude oil exports.

Manufacturers believe that energy exports should be governed by principles of free trade and open markets. Technological advancements have created opportunities for the export of crude oil to foreign markets, but these opportunities have been limited by an outdated federal ban. It is long past time for the United States to lift the ban on crude oil exports and put itself into compliance with its international commitments.

World Trade Organization (WTO) rules are critical to ensure a fair and level playing field for manufacturers throughout every sector of the U.S. economy, particularly in the face of other countries' efforts to restrict access to key materials. As a member of the WTO, the United States is bound to comply with these same rules with respect to all products, including crude oil exports. The decades-old ban on crude oil exports is clearly contrary to the basic provisions of the WTO that were created to help prevent unfair distortions to trade.

H.R. 702 would repeal the ban on crude oil exports, place the U.S. into compliance with its international commitments and send a strong message to the global community that we intend to honor the basic rules of the global economy. Manufacturers support H.R. 702 and stand ready to assist the Committee as it advances this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Linda Menghetti Dempsey
Vice President
International Economic Affairs



Ross Eisenberg
Vice President
Energy and Resources Policy