

Aric Newhouse

Senior Vice President
Policy and Government Relations

May 18, 2011

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support S. 953, the Offshore Production and Safety Act.

Manufacturers use one-third of the nation's energy and support those policies that increase domestic supplies and lower the cost of energy. Manufacturers need access to affordable and secure energy to be globally competitive and to create new high-paying jobs.

Every day of unnecessary delay in permitting and exploration of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) will cost America's manufacturers jobs and hold them back from innovation and development. Thousands of jobs were lost during the 2010 offshore moratorium. Companies that make and supply equipment, services, engines, boats and materials such as steel and concrete suffered under the moratorium and continue to suffer.

S. 953 provides for key safety provisions aimed at further ensuring environmental protection and worker safety. The bill also provides for an efficient and responsible response to applications by requiring the Department of Interior to respond to an application within 30 days of receipt. In addition, the legislation will open more areas in the OCS for drilling which will expand the ability to explore and develop our domestic sources of energy more effectively.

Increasing access to domestic sources of reliable energy, both onshore and offshore, is essential to the long-term health of American manufacturing. While investments in new energy sources and efforts to boost efficiency gains play critical roles in meeting our nation's future energy demands we cannot ignore the critical need to develop and utilize our domestic sources of energy.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on S. 953, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 112th Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Aric Newhouse

Key Manufacturing Vote