

Dear:

The recently passed energy bill is a good start in helping to meet our nation's energy needs. The cost of heating and cooling our homes and businesses, however, is still increasing dramatically, primarily because the available supply of energy is not sufficient to offset the increases in energy usage. I am writing to support opening the Outer Continental Shelf to exploration and development in order to address this shortage.

Every time I look at the newspaper or the TV, I hear about the increasing cost of energy. And now, because of the hurricanes, even the U.S. government is projecting that the average heating bill will increase by 48 percent this winter. While the cost of energy may still be manageable for most consumers, these prices will impose a significant burden on many – a burden that I believe is unnecessary.

The natural gas supplies in areas that are currently subject to moratoria on drilling could help relieve the pressure on consumers like myself. I urge you to support legislation that would provide for new energy production by ending the offshore drilling moratoria, easing restrictions on energy development in the Rocky Mountains, and providing states with royalty incentives to maximize production within areas subject to their control.

These changes would send a signal to all Americans that Congress is serious about helping us in this time of need.

Sincerely,