

How to Submit a Letter to the Editor (LTE)

TIPS

- Make it personal. Use facts. Provide a solution. Keep letter short and simple (100-200 words).
- Key Message: Getting back to work in the Gulf of Mexico provides good American jobs, increases energy security/reduces oil imports, lowers oil prices/increases supply, and increases government revenue via taxes and royalties.

WHAT TO SEND

- Include a cover note, a subject line (email only), the text of the letter, word count and your contact information.

Sample Email to your Newspaper

Subject line - LTE Submission: Getting America Back to Work

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to submit the following letter (## words) discussing the need to resume energy production in the Gulf of Mexico to benefit our state and national economy.

Please let me know if you choose to accept or reject this letter to the Editor.

Regards,

Full Name

Title or Former Title (optional)

Phone Number (for verification purpose only)

Include text of letter here

HOW TO SEND

Email - Submitting letters to the Editor via email is the most effective and efficient way to get your letter published.

Regular Mail- A typed or hand written letter can be mailed to the newspaper, by addressing the envelope and letter to the Newspaper and c/o "Opinion/letters to the Editor desk".

WHERE TO SEND

To find the email or mailing address for your local newspaper, visit the newspaper's website, locate the address on the print edition or call the main number of the newspaper to request where to send a Letter to the Editor.

Letter to Editor - Suggested Talking Points

INDUSTRY TAXES: 170 words

What are the President and many of our representatives in Washington doing about increasing energy production in the United States? They want to pass legislation that would punish the oil and gas industry with higher taxes and fees. Such legislation would reduce domestic energy production and raise the cost of transportation fuels. As a retired oil industry worker with XX years' experience, I can tell you that the oil and gas industry pays an effective tax rate of about 40% , higher than both the U.S. statutory rate (35%) and the rate for manufacturers (26.5%). The oil industry pays over \$86 million a day in income taxes, royalties, bonuses and rents to the federal government. There should be equitable treatment for all forms of energy regardless of type and for all energy producers - large and small. We need more energy production in this country, not narrowly focused laws that punish an industry that delivers the energy we desperately need and can help revive our economy by putting people back to work.

GAS AND ENERGY PRICES - 165 words

With energy prices and gas pump prices at very high levels, we need to do everything we can to increase domestic energy production. Now is the time.

As a retired employee of an oil and gas company with XX years of experience, our federal government is ignoring an offshore energy exploration and drilling infrastructure in the Gulf of Mexico. This vast energy resource has been largely offline for over a year. The federal agency in charge of offshore drilling has issued several permits lately but if the new process isn't made to be more efficient, the domestic supply of oil won't increase and prices could stay high. And it is important to remember that any proposed tax increases on energy development will hinder any effort to increase energy supplies.

Our country's leaders need to understand how important deepwater Gulf of Mexico oil production is to our nation's energy security and our economy. It's time to get our energy industry back to work in the Gulf.

DOMESTIC ENERGY SUPPLY - 165 words

Our country's leaders not only have the ability to reduce our dependence on foreign energy resources, they should do it now as energy prices remain high. We need robust exploration and development of oil and natural gas resources in the Gulf of Mexico. Our energy industry can meet this challenge in an environmentally safe way. The federal government should take steps now to enable our own energy industry to get back to work in the Gulf and strengthen, not weaken, our ability to compete against large and powerful national oil companies who are major players in the energy market by not increasing taxes on several U.S. energy companies.

In my XX years of experience in the oil and gas industry, I know there are talented workers in companies across the country that support Gulf offshore operations and want to be part of an effort to reduce our dependency on foreign energy imports by getting back to work in the Gulf after more than a year.

ECONOMY - 180 words

While the nation and our state is struggling economically, our representatives should do everything possible to encourage domestic job creation and growth. What better way to help our economy than by getting our own energy industry back to work in the Gulf of Mexico? Why can't we develop more energy here at home? Our nation's energy industry employs 9 million people but think about how many more good paying jobs can be created if we increase energy production in the U.S. We can't afford to keep offshore development on hold any longer. Affordable, reliable energy is the backbone of America's economy and as more domestic supply will stimulate economic growth, so will any tax increase on the energy industry hinder such growth. Many businesses in the state are waiting to get back to work to support Gulf drilling operations but the Administration has slowed drilling operations to a crawl. Our U.S. Senators need to focus on getting offshore drilling development and future leasing in the Gulf back on line and not delay any longer. Millions of jobs are at stake.