



# OPERATION ★ FREE

*Secure America with Clean Energy*

The Honorable Henry Waxman  
2204 Rayburn House Office Building

March 10, 2011

Dear Congressman Waxman:

**America's dependence on oil constitutes a clear and present danger to the security and welfare of the United States.** As former senior military officers, we are concerned about Congressional efforts to undermine the Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory authority that is critical to reducing our dependence on oil.

As former senior military officers who have spent decades in service to our nation, we have witnessed firsthand the toll of America's dependence on oil. In short, it makes us weaker.

We urge you not to block efforts to reduce that dependence, but rather to take a leadership role in helping our country move toward greater energy independence and economic security.

Each year, America sends hundreds of billions of dollars overseas to buy foreign oil—even as we work to recover from the worst recession in our lifetimes. This massive transfer of wealth weakens our economy. The latest oil price spike highlights our vulnerability. According to the Energy Information Agency, the US imports less than 1% of its oil from Libya. Yet in the wake of the Libyan crisis, prices at gas stations saw their second-largest one-week increase since EIA started tracking this data in 1990.

Our overseas oil expenditure underwrites the governments of unfriendly and undemocratic nations who control most of the world's oil supply. And there is evidence that our petro-dollars are funding terrorist activities.

We cannot produce enough domestic oil to change this dynamic. The only real alternative is to reduce our demand, by boosting efficiency and developing alternative sources of energy. Failing that, the national security, economic and military risks of our oil dependence will worsen.

With hard work and good old-fashioned American ingenuity, the nation that won the space race and gave birth to the Internet can lead the race for clean energy, and find more secure, profitable, and sustainable ways of powering American lives. We look to your leadership on this issue, for the sake of our national security.

Sincerely,

Lt. General Norman Seip  
US Air Force (ret.)

Rear Admiral Stuart Platt  
US Navy (ret.)

Maj. General George Buskirk  
US Army (ret.)



Truman National Security Project