



Thomas A. Schatz
President

May 8, 2009

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

Reps. Tom Price (R-Ga.) and Rob Bishop (R-Utah) recently introduced H.R. 2300, the American Energy Innovation Act, a joint proposal of the Republican Study Committee and the Congressional Western Caucus. The plan focuses on energy innovation, conservation, and production that will spur American ingenuity and foster market-based approaches to America's energy needs. On behalf of the 1.2 million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I urge you to support this legislation.

The International Energy Agency has forecast that oil prices will rebound to more than \$100 a barrel as soon as the world economy recovers, and will exceed \$200 by 2030. President Obama proposes to use renewable energy in place of energy derived from fossil fuels, but his plan will involve massive new taxes on American energy and economic output. As a more fiscally sustainable alternative, H.R. 2300 offers policies that facilitate the production of traditional resources, as well as support the rapid development of market-based alternative energy sources and technologies.

The legislation encourages American innovation by providing tax credits, repealing the ban on unconventional fuels, incentivizing renewable technologies, and reducing regulatory burdens. It also encourages energy conservation through tax credits and deductions, which will both help the environment and stimulate the economy. The legislation calls for the production of both traditional and non-traditional energy resources, including solar, wind, nuclear, hydropower, biofuels, coal, oil, and natural gas. The bill also seeks to open the Outer Continental Shelf, develop the 1002 area of the Arctic Coastal Plain, reform nuclear energy production, and expedite oil, gas, and oil shale leasing on federal lands. All revenue generated from this legislation will be dedicated to a Debt Reduction Trust Fund.

A combination of efforts will be the most successful path to overcome America's dynamic energy challenges. This legislation will enhance America's national security by reducing the nation's dependency on foreign oil and creating millions of new long-term jobs. All votes on the American Energy Innovation Act will be among those considered in CCAGW's *2009 Congressional Ratings*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Schatz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.