

AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY

May 19, 2009

The Honorable Tom Price, M.D.
Chairman
House Republican Study Committee
424 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
House Congressional Western Caucus
123 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Price and Bishop,

I am writing on behalf of Americans for Prosperity's members and our more than 20 state chapters to express our support for the American Energy Innovation Act, H.R. 2300.

You have rightly identified that the way to address America's energy policy is by encouraging innovation, incentivizing conservation and increasing production of domestic supplies. The American people have been the engine of prosperity for the entire history of the country and your commitment to put your faith in them, and not government bureaucrats, is heartening.

The country's energy concerns require an all-of-the-above approach, a position I am glad to see you have embraced in your bill. We need more traditional forms of energy, as well as nuclear, solar, wind and any other viable source in order to help us emerge from our challenging economic position. Renewable technologies should be encouraged but should also have to compete in the marketplace of ideas in order to prove their value.

Regulatory burdens have been especially onerous in the energy sector and we appreciate your move to streamline them. The looming threat of Environmental Protection Agency regulation of greenhouse gases under the 1970 Clean Air Act is a huge threat to economic growth and prosperity that your legislation would cleanly pre-empt, which is both timely and much needed.

Accessing domestic supplies of energy must be part of any comprehensive energy legislation and the inclusion of a title dedicated to opening the Outer Continental Shelf and the Arctic Coastal Plain for energy exploration and language to expedite leasing of federal lands is admirable.

For these and other reasons, we support the American Energy Innovation Act, and urge all members of the House to co-sponsor and vote for this important legislation.

We also commend you for advancing an energy bill without hidden tax hikes, an important priority for AFP that we have promoted through our www.NoClimateTax.com pledge, which I encourage all the members of your caucuses to sign. They need to make clear in writing that they will not support a bill that uses the cover of global warming to advance hidden tax hikes.

If you need any assistance from us on this matter, please contact James Valvo in our office at (202) 349-5880 or james.valvo@afphq.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "T" and "P".

Tim Phillips
President, Americans for Prosperity