

STATEMENT OF CORY GARDNER
Committee on Rules
H.R. 4480, the Domestic Energy and Jobs Act of 2012
June 19, 2012

Chairman Dreier, Ranking Member Slaughter, and members of this Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on a rule for H.R. 4480, the Domestic Energy and Jobs Act of 2012.

This bill will help bring down the future price of gasoline, create many thousands of good-paying energy industry jobs, and strengthen the nation's energy security. And it can accomplish all of these things without costing taxpayers a dime.

Each title of this bill takes critical steps towards increasing domestic energy supplies by transforming the federal government from an energy production impediment to an energy production facilitator. I would like to focus on the first two titles.

In June of last year, President Obama ordered a drawdown of 30 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the nation's emergency stockpile, in an attempt to increase oil supplies. But at the same time, the administration has turned its back on the far greater amounts of oil left untouched beneath federally-controlled lands and waters that have been placed off-limits. This inconsistency needs to be addressed.

Title I of this bill simply requires that the next time the President orders a withdrawal from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, he must also commit to more energy leasing of these federal areas. In other words, it would add the long-term solution of increased domestic oil production to the short-term response of tapping the emergency supply. Little wonder this commonsense measure has enjoyed bipartisan support. The fact that more domestic oil drilling would also create jobs, revitalize many local economies, and do it all at private sector expense is just icing on the cake.

Handwritten signature of Cory Gardner in blue ink, with the word "SPR" written below it.

While Title I is focused on producing more domestic oil, Title II addresses the critical step of refining that oil into the gasoline we use. Unfortunately, past EPA regulations have contributed to domestic refinery shutdowns and job losses while also adding to the burden at the pump. And despite high prices in 2012, the EPA is poised to launch a wave of costly new gasoline-related measures.

Title II requires an inter-agency analysis of the cumulative effects of these upcoming rules on gas prices as well as jobs, and requires the analysis to be completed before these new measures go into effect. It's a sensible look-before-you-leap approach that anyone struggling with costly fill-ups would support.

In sum, whether it is producing more oil from federal lands or refining it into gasoline, our federal government frequently stands in the way. This bill takes action to remove costly and unnecessary government roadblocks. The result would be more domestic energy, more jobs, and lower prices in the years ahead. Thank you, and I look forward to any questions you may have.