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HASTINGS

Rules Statement:
H.R. 2231, Offshore Energy and Jobs Act
H.R. 1613, Outer Continental Shelf Transboundary Hydrocarbon Agreements
Authorization Act

I appreciate you holding this hearing and request a structured rule for the consideration of H.R. 2231, the Offshore Energy and Jobs Act and H.R. 1613, the Outer Continental Shelf Transboundary Hydrocarbon Agreements Authorization Act. These two bills will expand offshore American energy production – creating new American jobs, lowering energy prices and increasing our national security.

Last fall, the Obama Administration implemented a five-year offshore leasing plan that closed 85 percent of our offshore areas to energy production and opened no new areas.

In stark contrast, the Offshore Energy and Jobs Act would require the President to implement a new five-year plan that includes offshore areas known to contain the most oil and natural gas resources – like the Mid-Atlantic, Alaska and Southern California.

It would also require the Administration to hold specific lease sales, including one off the coast of Virginia that was scheduled to take place in 2011 but was canceled by the Obama Administration.

Finally, the bill establishes fair, equitable revenue sharing for all coastal states and implements reforms to improve the safety and efficiency of our offshore energy agencies.

H.R. 1613 would enact the terms of an agreement signed by the Obama Administration and Mexico to govern how to explore, develop, and share revenue from oil and natural gas resources along the maritime border in the Gulf of Mexico. This bill is another opportunity to open new areas to American energy production.

These bills will create over 1.2 million new American jobs and generate \$1.5 billion in new revenue over 10 years.

We can do better than the President's current plan and should move this country forward with a real pro-energy, pro-jobs offshore drilling plan.

Thank you Mr. Chairman for your consideration of my request and I would be happy to answer any questions.