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MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA
TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION, AND TRADE

SENIOR WHIP
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE, OF TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON THE RULES

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENTS TO
H.R. 2231**

"Offshore Energy and Jobs Act"



JUNE 25, 2013

FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK CHAIRMAN
SESSIONS AND RANKING MEMBER SLAUGHTER FOR
HOLDING TODAY'S HEARING AND AFFORDING ME THE
OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE RULES COMMITTEE
AND EXPLAIN MY AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 2231, THE
"THE OFFSHORE ENERGY AND JOBS ACT."

I REALIZE THAT ENERGY IS THE LIFEBLOOD OF EVERY ECONOMY. I ALSO REALIZE THAT THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY PROVIDES MANY JOBS FOR MANY OF MY CONSITUENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IN MY DISTICT.

THEREFORE, IT IS CRITICAL THAT WHILE SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO SECURE MORE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE WITHIN THIS COUNTRY, WE MUST STRIKE A BALANCE THAT WILL STILL SUPPORT AN ENVIRONMENT FOR CONTINUED GROWTH IN THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY THAT CREATES MILLIONS OF JOBS ACROSS THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

FURTHERMORE, I BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE NOT ONLY INVOLVE SMALL, MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES IN THIS PROCESS, BUT HISTORICALLY BLACK UNIVERSITIES LIKE TEXAS SOTHERN UNIVERSITY. THEY REPRESENT HARD WORKING AMERICANS WHO ARE ON THE FORFRONT OF ENERGY EFFICIENT STRATEGIES.

CONGRESS HAS AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE JOBS BY SUPPORTING MY AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 2231.

MY AMENDMENTS ARE SIMPLE AND ARE AN IMPORTANT ADDITION TO THIS LANDMARK LEGISLATION, WHICH I BELIEVE CAN BE SUPPORTED BY EVERY MEMBER OF THIS COMMITTEE.

MY FIRST AMENDMENT (JACKSO_21) CALLS FOR THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR TO INCREASE THE TOTAL LEASE ACREAGE SET FORTH IN THE PROPOSED OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL & GAS LEASING PROGRAM FOR 2012-2017 BY AN ADDITIONAL 10 PERCENT.

THIS 10% INCREASE SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE DEFICIT REDUCTION ACREAGE. AS SUCH, THE SECRETARY SHALL LEASE 20% OF THE DEFICIT REDUCTION ACREAGE EACH YEAR FROM 2012-2017. ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE DEFICIT REDUCTION ACREAGE SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE DEFICIT REDUCTION ENERGY SECURITY FUND.

FOR 15 YEARS AFTER ISSUANCE OF THE FIRST LEASE OR RECEIPT OF THE FIRST PAYMENT COMING FROM THE **DEFICIT REDUCTION ENERGY SECURITY FUND**, ALL PROCEEDS SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO AN INTEREST BEARING ACCOUNT FOR A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS. UPON EXPIRATION OF THE 2 YEAR PERIOD, THESE PROCEEDS SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

- THE INTEREST GAINED DURING 2 YEAR PERIOD SHALL BE PLACED IN THE **COASTAL AND OCEAN SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH FUND (COSH)**;
- AND THE PRINCIPLE FROM THE **DEFICIT REDUCTION ENERGY SECURITY FUND** SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE US TREASURY AND APPLIED DIRECTLY TOWARD **DEFICIT REDUCTION**.

THE COSH FUND WILL ESTABLISH GRANTS FOR STATES (COASTAL AND DISASTER GRANT PROGRAM AND A NATIONAL GRANT PROGRAM) FOR ADDRESSING COASTAL AND OCEAN DISASTERS, RESTORATION, PROTECTION, AND MAINTENANCE OF COASTAL AREAS AND OCEANS, INCLUDING RESEARCH AND PROGRAMS IN COORDINATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES.

MY SECOND AMENDMENT (JACKSO_28)
ESTABLISHES THE DEFICIT REDUCTION AND LOW INCOME HEATING ASSISTANCE FUND TO BE FUNDED BY REVENUE FROM THE DEFICIT REDUCTION ACREAGE LEASE SALES DURING THE FIRST 15 FISCAL YEARS BEGINNING WHEN SUMS ARE FIRST RECEIVED FROM SUCH SALES. AS ALL OF YOU MAY KNOW, LIHEAP IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO ASSIST ELIGIBLE LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS WITH THEIR HEATING AND COOLING ENERGY COSTS, AND, IF THE STATE CHOOSES, TO WEATHERIZE HOMES.

MY THIRD AMENDMENT (JACKSO_217)
ESTABLISHES AN OFFICE OF OCEAN ENERGY
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING AT THE BUREAU OF
OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT, REGULATION
AND ENFORCEMENT, WHICH SHALL BE
EMPOWERED AND DIRECTED TO OVERSEE THE
EFFORTS OF THE BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY
MANAGEMENT, REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT
OCEAN ENERGY PLANNING, PERMITTING AND
REGULATORY ACTIVITIES TO CARRY OUT THE
PURPOSES, OBJECTIVES AND REQUIREMENTS OF THIS
ACT. AND THIS AMENDMENT ESTABLISHES THE
OFFICE OF MINORITY AND WOMEN INCLUSION THAT
WILL REQUIRE THE SECRETARY TO TAKE
AFFIRMATIVE STEPS TO SEEK DIVERSITY IN ALL
LEVELS OF SUCH DEPARTMENT, AND TO BE
RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MATTERS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR RELATING TO
DIVERSITY IN Management, EMPLOYMENT, AND
BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.

I URGE ALL MEMBERS TO SUPPORT MY
AMENDMENTS. I THANK YOU, AND I YIELD BACK THE
BALANCE OF MY TIME.