



RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS

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WAYNE CHRISTIAN
COMMISSIONER

March 28, 2018

Texas Delegation
U.S. Congress
Washington, DC 20515

Representatives and Senators,

As Railroad Commissioner, elected statewide to regulate the oil and gas industry in the State of Texas, I am writing you today regarding the Jones Act of 1920 and its impact on our national security.

Earlier this year, the United States began producing more than 10 million barrels of oil per day – an accomplishment the industry has not achieved since the 1972. Many believe that the United States will surpass Saudi Arabia and Russia as the world's top energy producer by 2020.

The oil and gas industry was able to accomplish this through a combination of increased demand for its products, timely discoveries of additional hydrocarbons, critical technological innovation, and commonsense regulatory changes, such as eliminating the federal ban on crude oil exports. We are now, for the first time in recent memory, energy secure --meaning we no longer have to rely on (sometimes hostile) foreign nations to meet our energy needs.

Unfortunately, because of the Jones Act – a relic of the 1920's that restricts cargo from being transported between U.S. ports – many parts of the Northeastern United States are forced to import their natural gas from Russia instead of purchasing from domestic sources, like Texas. Very much similar to the ban on crude oil exports, this is bad public policy for a number of reasons, but primarily because it increases our reliance on foreign sources of energy.

It is time for members of Congress to look more closely at this outdated policy that harms our national security while serving no practical or beneficial purpose in today's world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Christian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Wayne Christian
Texas Railroad Commissioner