






April 7, 2011

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Dear Ricardo,

With unemployment stuck at just over 9 percent and many too discouraged to look for a job, it's important to know that there is a way to turn this around: by producing, here at home, more of the energy we need. That's not just wishful thinking. The oil and natural gas industry supports 9.2 million jobs and, with the right government policies, we can have more of the well-paying jobs that can help us grow our economy and produce substantial new revenues for the government.

The people of the U.S. oil and natural gas industry live and work in your state, too: 9,973 of them. That's a lot of people, making a good living and contributing to their communities and states. We can do more. For example, [a recent study found that almost 190,000 new jobs could be created next year if offshore development permitting in the Gulf of Mexico returned to pre-moratorium levels.](#) Hundreds of thousands more would be created by encouraging increased production onshore and with the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline to bring crude oil from Canada's oil sands to U.S. refineries.

The wrong policies can also kill existing jobs, and not just in our industry. For instance, if EPA persists in implementing [new ozone rules](#) ahead of the normal five-year cycle, [some 7.3 million jobs could be lost.](#)

Last year [oil and natural gas companies provided \\$476 billion in direct support to the economy.](#) They are ready to invest more to create new jobs. All they need is the government's green light.

Sincerely,  
Jack Gerard  
President and CEO  
API

**About API:** API represents more than 470 oil and natural gas companies, leaders of a technology-driven industry that supplies most of America's energy, supports 9.2 million U.S. jobs and 7.7 percent of the U.S. economy, delivers \$86 million a day in revenue to our government, and, since 2000, has invested over \$2 trillion in U.S. capital projects to advance all forms of energy, including alternatives.

### Access Is Key

With the right policies in place, including the Keystone XL, the U.S. and Canada could provide 92 percent of America's liquid fuel needs by 2030. [Learn more....](#)



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