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December 15, 2014

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Paul N. Jaenichen, Sr.
Administrator
Maritime Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Jaenichen:

The United States is undergoing a profound revolution in oil and gas production, both onshore and offshore. As our nation shifts toward becoming a net exporter of energy on the world stage, we have the opportunity to both enhance our security and strengthen our economy.

I support the efforts of your team to plan for a future in which American commerce may include hydrocarbon exports from deepwater ports. Many of our key allies, including Canada and Australia, engage in exploration and production in their offshore regions. The integrated infrastructure and shipping activities in the highly productive North Sea region enable a robust trade in oil and gas that includes Norway, Denmark, the United Kingdom, and continental Europe, and may provide an instructive model as we consider our own deepwater possibilities.

Please direct any questions to Tristan Abbey on the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee staff (Tristan_Abbey@energy.senate.gov or 202 224 4971). Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator