

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 18, 2015

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Pritzker:

We are writing to express our support for increasing our nation's energy ties with Mexico. As you know, energy resources often overlie international boundaries, as we have clearly seen in deepwater exploration in the Gulf of Mexico and the Eagle Ford shale along our southern border. Natural gas is traded between our two nations through more than twenty existing pipelines, and many others are under consideration. Additionally, increasing commercial activity in petroleum products, natural gas liquids, and other types of energy is further expanding the U.S.-Mexico energy relationship.

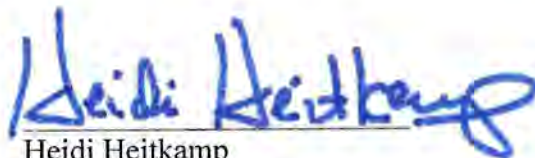
Recent news reports indicate that PEMEX has applied for a swap transaction that would involve imports of heavy Mexican oil in exchange for exports of light U.S. oil. We encourage the Department of Commerce to approve any such applications it has received or may receive from adjacent foreign states, such as Mexico. The Energy Policy and Conservation Act and other relevant statutes clearly authorize swaps and exchanges and, in our view, deserve bipartisan support. Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan all supported such a program with Canada from 1976 to 1985, with the intention of relieving a supply and quality mismatch comparable to the present North American situation. These potential transactions are in the national interest and, if applied for, should be authorized without delay.

In fact, we believe it would be appropriate to further liberalize energy trading with Mexico. President Reagan issued a national interest finding in 1985 stating that oil exports to Canada (for consumption in that country) were in accord with existing statutes and would not threaten U.S. supply. This limited but clear authority to expand exports was given to the executive branch through laws (such as the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975) passed by Congress and is particularly relevant as our nation's energy mix evolves with the rise of domestic production. As a result of the expressed interest from Mexico in obtaining U.S. crude oil, we encourage the current administration to follow President Reagan's example by issuing a similar finding that United States oil exports to Mexico, for consumption in Mexico, are in the national interest.

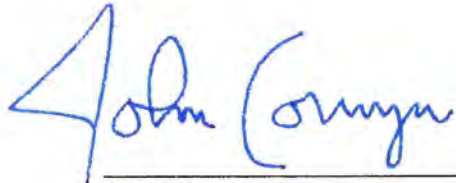
Sincerely,



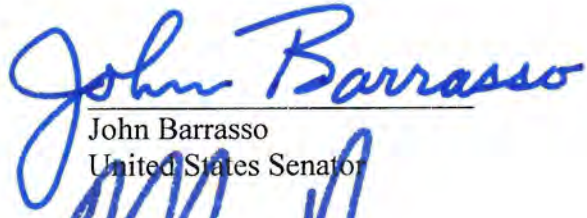
Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



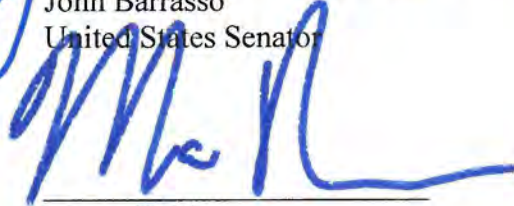
John Cornyn
United States Senator



John Barrasso
United States Senator



Lamar Alexander
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



James Inhofe
United States Senator



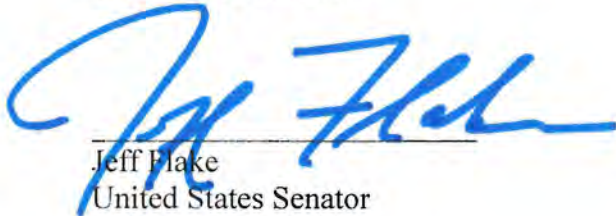
John Hoeven
United States Senator



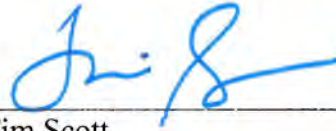
James Risch
United States Senator



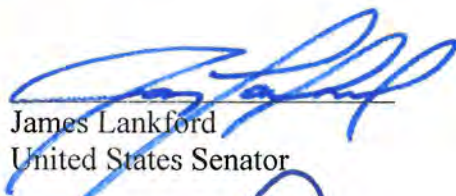
Ted Cruz
United States Senator



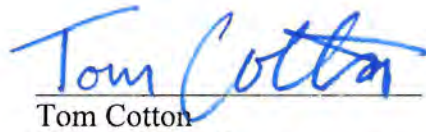
Jeff Flake
United States Senator



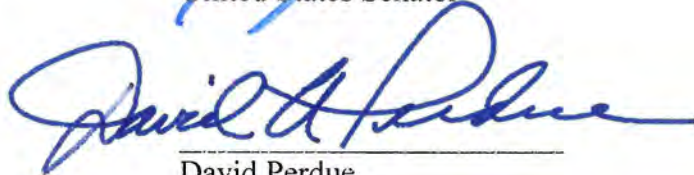
Tim Scott
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



Tom Cotton
United States Senator



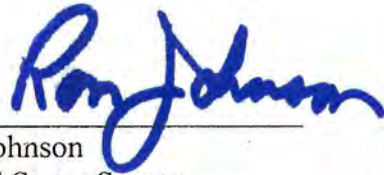
David Perdue
United States Senator



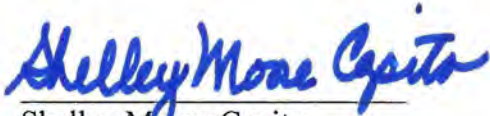
Cory Gardner
United States Senator



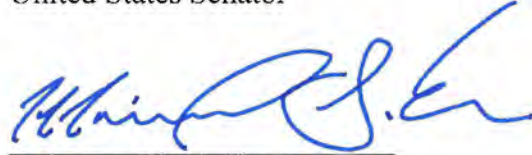
Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



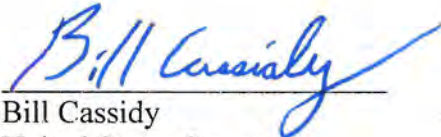
Ron Johnson
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Mike Lee
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy
United States Senator