



**OIL & NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY  
LABOR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**March 29, 2012**

**The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510**

**Dear Leader Reid:**

**Several years ago the American Petroleum Institute and 15 building trades unions created the Oil and Natural Gas Industry Labor-Management Committee, an organization established to preserve and create jobs by promoting domestic oil and natural gas production. We believe by working together we can protect and promote American job growth and foster both energy and economic security.**

**We are concerned that proposals to raise taxes on the oil and natural gas industry, such as S.2204, could endanger jobs. More than 9 million jobs are directly and indirectly related to the industry, including those of thousands of construction workers, who supply the skilled labor for refinery modifications and expansions, pipeline construction, and fabrication of equipment used to produce domestic oil and natural gas supplies.**

**One proposed industry tax increase, repeal of Sec. 199, would clearly harm the competitiveness of our nation's refining sector, a sector that supports more than 460,000 good-paying highly skilled American jobs.**

**Politically expedient measures are no substitute for sound, comprehensive public policy that will increase our energy security. Supporting domestic energy production generates long-term economic benefits for America and supports our shared goals of job creation, economic growth and energy security.**



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We'd be happy to discuss these issues with you at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark H. Ayers".

**Mark Ayers**  
President, Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO  
Oil & Natural Gas Industry Labor-Management Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Gerard".

**Jack Gerard**  
President and CEO, American Petroleum Institute  
Oil & Natural Gas Industry Labor-Management Committee

cc: **Senator Mitch McConnell**  
Minority Leader

**Senator Max Baucus, Chair**  
Senate Finance Committee

**Senator Orrin Hatch, Ranking Member**  
Senate Finance Committee