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The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Democratic Leader, U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, Democratic Leader Pelosi, and Democratic Leader Reid:

API, with more than 650 members representing all facets of the oil and natural gas industry, writes in strong support of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016. There are many significant provisions in the legislation and lifting the ban on crude oil exports is critical to the American energy renaissance.

Extensive research has determined that lifting the ban on U.S. crude oil exports would create American jobs, bolster the U.S. economy, and benefit consumers. According to various studies, lifting the ban would create one million jobs at its peak in 2018, and add \$38 billion to our economy, and lower our trade deficit by \$22 billion and our federal budget deficit by \$1.4 billion in the coming years. And every major study agrees – crude oil exports would put downward pressure on U.S. gasoline prices, benefiting American consumers.

Allowing U.S. crude oil to compete in the global market would also help our allies around the world who are eager to reduce their reliance on less friendly nations. For example, lifting the ban would allow U.S. producers to compete with Iran which will soon increase its oil exports as a result of recent policy changes. Updating the crude export policy provides an opportunity to show our allies and all nations how a democracy uses energy and pro-energy public policies to the world's benefit.

We are in the midst of an energy renaissance in which America has an abundance of energy. Lifting the ban on U.S. crude oil exports will benefit American consumers and workers, and our allies across the globe. We strongly support passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016.

Sincerely,

Jack N. Gerard
President and CEO