

Leo W. Gerard  
International President

May 24, 2006

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 850,000 members of the United Steelworkers (USW) I write to **express our strong opposition to H.R. 5429, the “American-Made Energy and Good Jobs Act”, which would allow oil and gas drilling in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).**

There is no doubt that fuel prices are at a record high, and that working men and women across the U.S. are spending more money each week to fuel their vehicles and heat their homes, however H.R. 5429 represents a short-term solution to a long-term problem.

Our nation’s energy policy should maximize both job creation and environmental protection, so that working families are not forced to choose between making a living and having a world worth living in. We believe that drilling in the Arctic Refuge fails this test. Several examples of the potential environmental affects can be taken from the Prudhoe Bay oil fields on Alaska’s North Slope, which have caused an average of 400 spills annually since 1995. Studies have shown that there spills have had a great effect on the soil and vegetation in these areas, which in turn poses a great threat to future and existing wildlife around these oil fields.

Opening up exploration in ANWR would also not guarantee immediate consumer relief or relief over the long term. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) found that if oil were discovered in commercial quantities, it would take 10 years before a drop of Arctic Refuge oil could first be produced. In 2015, it would only make up 0.06 percent of world oil production, and at its peak (projected to be 2025) oil from the Arctic refuge would make up only 3 percent of U.S. oil consumption. It is clear that ultimately drilling in ANWR will have very little effect on consumer energy prices.

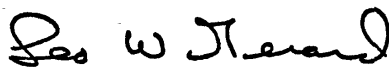
Proponents of H.R. 5429 claim that opening up the coastal plain in ANWR for exploration could create up to 250,000 to 1,000,000 new jobs. These numbers, however, are based on a report conducted by the American Petroleum Institute (API) 15

years ago (1990). A more recent report by the Tellus Institute shows that investment in renewable energy and increased efficiency would create 700,000 jobs by 2010, and 1.3 million by 2020.

While we agree it is essential Congress explore real energy solutions to address the growing consumer demand for energy, drilling in one of our nations last wild reserves should not be one of them.

Again, on behalf of the working men and women of the United Steelworkers, I urge you to oppose H.R. 5429, and any other effort to allow oil and gas drilling in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leo W. Gerard". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Leo W. Gerard  
International President

LWG/rdb