



Western States Petroleum Association

April 15, 2008

Editor
The Press Democrat
427 Mendocino Ave.
P. O. Box 569
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Dear Editor:

Your recent coverage of federal legislation designed to prevent offshore oil exploration and development (Experts: North Coast oil wouldn't ease gas prices, April 2, 2008), focused on the issues of supply and gasoline prices.

What wasn't mentioned was the question of energy security and our growing dependence on foreign oil, much of it from very unstable regions of the planet.

In the early 1980s, US crude oil production was approximately 10 million barrels per day. Today, we produce slightly more than 5 million barrels per day. Since the early 80's, demand for petroleum products has grown and we have become more dependent on imported sources of oil.

Foreign imports of crude oil and finished products currently represent about 65 percent of the volume needed to meet our daily domestic product demand of close to 21 million barrels. Allowing access to additional US resources, with appropriate environmental sensitivity, would help us reduce dependence on foreign oil and improve our national energy security.

As your article accurately stated, WSPA has not advocated for new offshore oil drilling in California. However, we do feel it's important for consumers to understand that political decisions to exclude US energy supplies from being safely and sensitively produced have real-world consequences for our nation, our state and consumers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Sparano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joe Sparano, President
Western States Petroleum Association