



LOUISIANA MID-CONTINENT OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION

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Letter to the Editor
The Advocate
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Dear Editor:

Senators Mary Landrieu and David Vitter should be commended for standing up for Louisiana. They did the right thing in opposing the House passed energy bill that would have extracted more than \$12 billion from one industry---the very industry that supports 320,000 Louisiana jobs and has a \$70 billion positive economic impact on our great state.

Both senators put the interest of Louisiana first. Isn't this what we always want our elected officials to do? I am certain that this was a difficult vote for Sen. Landrieu --- she was the deciding vote and the only Democrat that voted against her party's majority, but it was the right thing to do.

Our elected Senators and Representatives are sent to Washington to work in the best interest of their districts, state and nation and not to blindly follow the party line. Sometimes people want their leaders to display their independence. Sometimes people want their leaders to tow the party line. In this case Louisiana greatly benefited from the independence displayed by our Senators.

The House passed version of the energy bill sought to rollback an incentive program that was enacted under the Clinton administration to encourage development of oil and gas resources in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The program has been very successful. The benefits to Louisiana have been tremendous. Without the exploration and production of oil and gas from the Gulf of Mexico, America's energy security would be threatened. Our nation would be more not less dependent upon foreign sources of oil from unstable regimes. The price of energy to heat, cool and light our homes, and fuel our cars would be even higher.

The national press and members of Congress gave very little attention to Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico a decade ago when oil was near the \$10 mark. They did not seriously look at the wetlands issue until faced with the destruction of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Hindsight is great. However, the foresight offered by Sen. Landrieu and Sen. Vitter shows that the interests of Louisiana were not forgotten or lost in some political squabble.

The compromise energy bill may not do enough to solve all our energy problems. However, it is a first step, a first step that was aided by the courageous actions of the Louisiana delegation. We can be grateful for that.

Sincerely,

Chris John
President,
Louisiana Mid-Continent
Oil and Gas Association