

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

END THE \$7 BILLION SWEETHEART DEAL FOR
BIG OIL



Support the "Royalty Relief for American Consumers Act of 2006"

February 14, 2006

Dear Colleague,

Oil companies pay a fraction of the value of the oil and gas produced on federal land as a royalty to the federal government. However, on Valentine's Day, we have learned that Big Oil's sweetheart deal from Congress is bigger than we ever knew. The New York Times revealed today that oil and gas companies stand to receive future royalty giveaways from the Bush Administration of nearly \$7 billion. This royalty relief for Exxon Mobil, BP, Chevron Texaco, comes at a time when these companies are recording record profits and consumers are paying record high energy prices.

The "Royalty Relief for American Consumers Act of 2006" would ensure that the taxpayers receive the billions of dollars in future royalty payments they are owed by the big oil companies as payment to drill on public land. This legislation would prohibit royalty relief on any future oil and gas leases, call for a renegotiation of current leases, and prevent the purchasing of new leases by those companies that refuse to renegotiate.

Across the country, the high cost of gas is cutting into Americans' pocket books for critical needs, while Congress just keeps larding onto the already record profits of major oil and gas companies by keeping the royalty holiday going. That's \$7 billion that rightfully belongs to the American taxpayer going instead to the corporate suites. It is time for the Congress and the Bush Administration to treat the American taxpayer fairly when it comes to oil and gas royalties.

For more information or to sign-on as a cosponsor, please contact Morgan Gray or Jeff Duncan on Rep. Markey's staff at 5-2836. Thank you.


Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

Sincerely,


Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress


George Miller
Member of Congress


Rahm Emanuel
Member of Congress



Henry Waxman
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jay Inslee
Member of Congress



Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress