



Leo W. Gerard
International President

June 8, 2015

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Oppose Senate Amendment #1486 to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), and Support Senate Amendment #1645

Dear Senator:

This week the Senate is expected to consider Senate Amendment #1486, offered to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by Senator Cornyn, which would express the Sense of the Senate in favor of repealing restrictions on exports of domestic crude oil. **We strongly urge you to oppose the Cornyn amendment.**

The United Steelworkers union (USW) represents workers at 63 of the nation's refineries, which accounts for two-thirds of domestic refining capacity. Refinery jobs are good paying jobs which support over \$1.8 million in value-added to the economy per employee. Lifting the ban would not only prove detrimental to the jobs of the men and women employed at U.S. refineries, but also to the communities that rely on the tax base generated from these wages.

The crude oil export ban has helped the U.S. refining industry realign to domestic crudes, thereby investing in America

households are saving, on average, \$700 per year from lower fuel prices compared to a year ago. These savings cannot be overlooked and are critical not only to millions of Americans, but also to the health of the overall economy.

The Senate will also consider an amendment offered by Senator Markey, Senate Amendment #1645, to the NDAA as a Side-by-Side to the Cornyn amendment. The Markey amendment would express the Sense of the Senate that crude oil exports to our allies should not be consistent with the national interest if those exports would either: increase U.S. energy prices for American consumers and business, or increase the reliance of the United States on imported oil. **We strongly urge you to support the Markey amendment.**

Exporting crude will negatively impact U.S. refining jobs, undermine our nation