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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0304

May 4, 2009

The Honorable Timothy F. Geithner
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Geithner:

I am contacting you to follow-up on your recent testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee regarding President Obama's FY2010 budget proposal.

I remain concerned about the President's plan to raise taxes on Gulf Coast energy producers. Over the April congressional work period, I visited with Louisiana small business owners who work each day to supply America's energy needs. The message I heard was loud and clear - the President's tax hike on oil and gas producers will kill Louisiana jobs and drive energy production overseas. The Administration's proposal penalizes tens of thousands of hard working Americans who comprise the heart of the energy industry - from small, independent producers and suppliers to those that service offshore facilities.

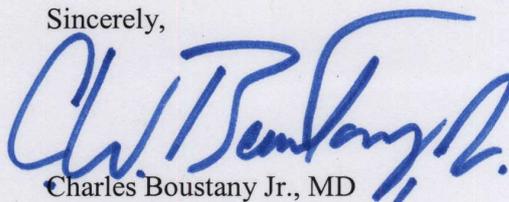
President Carter's failed Windfall Profits Tax increased our dependence on foreign oil and produced significantly less government revenues than anticipated. More importantly, skilled American workers were forced to find work overseas. Congress rightfully repealed the tax in 1988 - but it had a devastating, long-term impact on Louisiana's economy.

I support the President's goal to move our nation toward clean, renewable energy. In fact, Louisiana is leading the way to develop cutting-edge alternative fuel sources. I remain concerned the Administration's lack of a transition strategy will cripple the economy and eliminate high-paying jobs throughout the Gulf Coast. President Obama admirably pledged to create or save 3.5 million U.S. jobs. In the spirit of that pledge, I believe more work needs to be done to determine the impact the President's tax increase will have on Gulf Coast jobs before it is implemented.

I would specifically like to know: How many *current* jobs do you anticipate will be eliminated or moved overseas by the President's tax increase on domestic energy producers? Has the Administration performed any specific analysis related to job loss? If not, why? If so, what analysis has been done of energy support jobs that would be lost?

I think these are important questions that need answered before Congress implements the President's budget proposals. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to a timely reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Boustany Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Charles Boustany Jr., MD
Member of Congress