Washington–

Rep. Lee Terry today voted in favor of H.R. 1230, the Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act. The legislation expands American energy production and creates jobs by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate oil and natural gas lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and offshore Virginia which have been blocked by the Administration.

Today's action is the first step to reverse these actions and require the Department of the Interior to move forward with the four scheduled lease sales before June 1, 2012 or within one year after the enactment of the bill.

"Skyrocketing fuel prices are a drag on our economy and a threat to families' pocket books. With many Americans paying $4.00 a gallon of gasoline, Congress needs to do everything we can to open American energy resources. By safely extracting these offshore areas, we will have access to billions of barrels of oil and trillions cubic feet of natural gas. Until we increase American energy production, we will be ever more reliant on foreign sources of energy," Terry said.

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