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The Honorable Jacob J. Lew
Secretary
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Lew:

This year has seen legislative activity aimed at repealing the outdated restrictions on exporting oil produced in the United States. The Energy Information Administration concluded in September that lifting the de facto ban would not raise domestic gasoline prices. In my opinion, such a long-overdue policy shift would conform to the principles laid out in the President's National Security Strategy and the Administration's Quadrennial Energy Review.

The licensing of crude oil exports is relevant to the work of the Treasury even though authorizations to export from the United States are strictly within the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce. As I understand the requirements, U.S. persons must have the authorization of the Treasury to engage in transactions with or involving certain entities related to oil, gas, or petroleum products exported from Libya. For example, in April 2011, Treasury issued General License 5, "Authorizing Transactions Related to Certain Oil, Gas, or Petroleum Products Exported from Libya." In September 2011, Treasury issued General License 7A: "All transactions involving the Libyan National Oil Corporation (NOC) or entities owned or controlled by the NOC are authorized, provided that such transactions do not involve any other persons whose property and interests in property are blocked." Similarly, in 2013, the Treasury Department issued a statement of policy related to Syria: "Specific licenses may be issued on a case-by-case basis to authorize U.S. persons to engage in any transaction otherwise prohibited by [U.S. law]...including but not limited to new investment, involving the purchase, trade, export, import, or production of petroleum or petroleum products of Syrian origin for the benefit of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition forces."

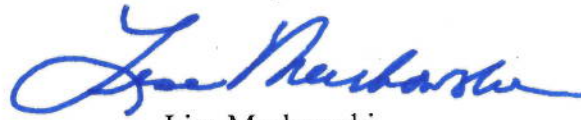
The Administration's recent statements criticizing legislative efforts regarding U.S. oil exports stand in stark contrast to prior Administration policy designed to support Libyan and Syrian rebels in their efforts to export oil from their countries. Accordingly, at your earliest convenience, please provide written answers to the following questions:

1. Is there any evidence showing that American companies engaged in activity under the general licenses issued by Treasury related to Libyan oil exports? Is there any evidence showing that Libyan rebel groups benefited in any way from the issuance of these general licenses?

2. Is there any evidence showing that American companies engaged in activity under specific licenses related to Syrian oil exports, or that Syrian rebel groups benefited in any way from the issuance of these specific licenses?
3. If the answer to either of the foregoing questions is yes, please share that evidence with me to the extent and in the manner that you are permitted to do so by the governing statutes or regulations.
4. In your opinion, would further liberalization of U.S. export controls related to crude oil benefit the American economy and U.S. Treasury?

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator