

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 14, 2015

The Honorable James R. Clapper
Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Dear Director Clapper:

The National Intelligence Council's *Global Trends 2030* report, released in December 2012, describes energy independence in the United States as a potential "tectonic shift" between now and 2030. The report also states:

"Shale oil production in the US is still in its early stages, and its full potential remains uncertain, but development is happening at a faster pace than shale gas. Preliminary estimates for 2020 range from 5-15 million barrels per day with a production breakeven price as low as \$44-68 per barrel depending upon the fields. By the [year] 2020, the US could emerge as a major energy exporter."

We agree that energy independence within North America and, perhaps, the Western Hemisphere is not only an attainable goal, but also increasingly the economic reality. As the Congress considers legislation to repeal restrictions on the export of domestic crude oil and expediting exports of liquefied natural gas, our nation is also exporting record volumes of other types of energy, including petroleum products, natural gas by pipeline, natural gas liquids, coal, and nuclear and renewable technology.

We are writing to strongly support analytical efforts by the Intelligence Community to assess the geopolitical and international security implications of our nation's energy renaissance, and to ensure that policymakers are kept fully informed of this analysis.

Sincerely,



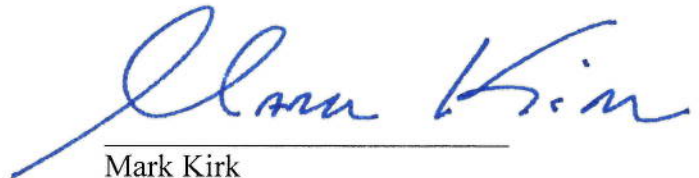
Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Richard Burr
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



Mark Kirk
United States Senator