



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**AISI STRONGLY COMMENDS THE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO
INCREASE ENERGY PRODUCTION FROM DOMESTIC RESOURCES**

Washington, D.C. – The American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) applauds the passage of H.R. 1229, H.R. 1230 and H.R. 1231, three bills aimed at expanding oil and natural gas production in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

“Because steel is an energy-intensive, trade-exposed industry, an affordable and abundant supply of energy is critical to maintaining our international competitiveness,” AISI President and CEO Thomas J. Gibson said. “Natural gas, in particular, is a reliable source of energy that will help lower costs for domestic manufacturing, such as the steel industry. Furthermore, since steel pipe and tubing – products that U.S. steelmakers actively supply--are integral to both the gathering and transmission of natural gas, expanding the market will help create valuable and much-needed U.S. jobs. These three bills provide an opportunity for us to explore and develop our offshore resources, and they represent an important step forward in developing a comprehensive national energy independence strategy.”

H.R. 1229, “The Putting the Gulf Back to Work Act,” ends the de facto moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to act on a permit to drill within 30 days of receiving an application and after conducting a safety review. H.R. 1230 requires the Administration to conduct offshore lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and offshore Virginia. H.R. 1231 requires the Interior Department to move forward on the 2012-2017 OCS lease plan in areas containing the most oil and natural gas resources.

AISI serves as the voice of the North American steel industry in the public policy arena and advances the case for steel in the marketplace as the preferred material of choice. AISI also plays a lead role in the development and application of new steels and steelmaking technology. AISI is comprised of 25 member companies, including integrated and electric furnace steelmakers, and 140 associate and affiliate members who are suppliers to or customers of the steel industry. AISI's member companies represent approximately 80 percent of both U.S. and North American steel capacity. For more news about steel and its applications, view AISI's Web site at www.steel.org.

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