



February 2019

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Recommended Citation

Brimage, Cameron (2019) "Offshore Drilling," *SWOSU Sayre Student Anthology*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 1 , Article 29.
Available at: https://dc.swosu.edu/sayre_student_anthology/vol1/iss1/29

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Offshore Drilling

Cameron Brimage

The ban on offshore drilling should be lifted. Lifting the ban on offshore drilling would benefit the United States in many ways. Lifting the ban would help to lower fuel and natural gas prices. It would put hard working Americans who have been out of work for months back into the job market. United States offshore drilling would also help us to wean us, the people, off of foreign oil dependency. Many people say that there are too many risks in allowing offshore drilling to continue, but what things in life or the world don't come at some price. Everything people do on a daily basis has risks, but these risks are just another part of everyday life.

Since the beginning of the oilfield, there have been incidents, and the same goes for the start of offshore drilling. Offshore drilling started as early back as 1869 by a rig that was designed to operate in shallow water, but the anchoring system resembled the systems used today by offshore rigs. Although the start of the offshore well can be backdated to 1869, the first "out of sight" offshore rig wasn't put into use until after World War II. Logs on harmful incidents have not always been kept very thoroughly, but according to the National Research Council, logs on incidents do date about to at least 1979. Even in 1979, the safety of drilling has been significantly higher than other dangerous fields such as mining, transportation, and heavy construction. According to "Accident During the Offshore Oil and Gas Development," there are two types of accidents; one of which involves a catastrophic situation that involves doing damage to the environment in a way which is hard to contain but not impossible, which has an approximation of one incident for every ten thousand wells drilled. The latter of the two involves an incident in which damage may occur to the environment but is able to be contained easily and quickly. There are lots of risks in using the offshore drilling technique, but the statistics of these incidents outweigh the consequences.

Lifting the ban on offshore drilling has many perks in the U.S. economy as well. According to Josh Brown, the offshore drilling could generate anywhere from 1,500 to 15,000 jobs just in the state of Virginia from drilling off the coast in the Atlantic Ocean. The United States already spends approximately \$1.5 billion per day importing oil from other countries. So, instead of spending all this money on importing oil into the U.S. from other countries who already dislike us, why don't we lift the ban on offshore drilling to create jobs, and stimulate our economy?

I'm not saying that there shouldn't be regulations placed on offshore drilling. I do agree with reviving the way offshore drilling is done, but even if it were left as it is, it isn't as unsafe towards people or the environment as people make it out to be. Offshore drilling is important to the United States because it wouldn't just stimulate our economy for a short period of time. The U. S. is sitting on oil reserves in the Gulf of Mexico that make up a third of our entire oil reserves. So, I say lift the ban and stimulate the things that are important to our country. Don't shut it down and help other countries when we need the help right here at home.