Dear :

I have your communication presenting your views on the importation of petroleum products and the effect such products are having on the domestic fuels industry.

Other industries are also affected by such imports. The railroad industry, the trucking industry and the water carriers are obviously deprived of freight revenues from hauling oil and coal. The domestic coal industry is also deprived of a market for its products. In addition thereto we do lose jobs and tax revenues which would be derived from an operating industry.

As you know, quotas on oil imports were first imposed in 1955 under the Eisenhower administration and in the last few months some attempt has been made to remove these quotas. How high or low the quotas should be set is always a matter to be determined from all available facts but at the time these quotas were imposed I thought it was the prudent thing to do and I have no reason as of now to change my opinion.

The domestic fuel industry should be given an opportunity to meet our domestic fuel requirements to the fullest practicable extent consonant, of course, with our defense needs and good relations with other countries. We do, however, have a responsibility to maintain a vital fuel industry in this country. I intend to pursue that course, and trust it finds favor with you.

Sincerely,

Everett McKinley Dirksen