Foreign-Owned Domestic Refining Capacity

- Foreign entities have acquired significant U.S. refinery assets since the 1980s.
- Foreign-owned refineries have financial agreements that allow them to exclude domestic-sourced crude.
- Foreign-owned refineries currently import 1.1 MMBpd of oil from their own country (i.e., Saudi’s Motiva importing Saudi crude).
- Foreign-owned refineries could source ~4.9 MMBpd of foreign crude imports, putting U.S. producers at an even greater disadvantage.

The mismatch in sour vs. sweet refining capacity and the disadvantage of U.S. export laws allows foreign refiners to import their own crude, process it in U.S. refineries, and then ship refined product overseas at no advantage to U.S. consumers.

WTI vs. Brent Oil Price History Since 2005

March 4, 2013 DEPA media dinner in D.C. on exports—Brent/WTI spread $20

$2.73 differential (WTI higher)

West Texas Inter. — Brent (World price)

*Source: EIA