

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 7, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
US Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

With the release of the Proposed Outer Continental Shelf Plan for 2012-2017, we write to express strong bipartisan support in the House for the consideration of new and expanded access to the OCS for the production of oil and natural gas.

Opening up new areas of the OCS will bring new jobs, new energy, and new revenues to the Treasury – all at a time where each of these benefits is desperately needed. When finalized, this will be the first five year plan since the presidential and congressional moratoria were lifted in 2008. At the time these moratoria were removed, it was anticipated by the public and the Congress that without these obstacles in place the result would be that future five year plans would include significant new access to the OCS thereby laying the groundwork for new jobs, energy, and revenues. Together, these moratoria had kept more than three quarters of the OCS off limits to exploration and production activities for more than 30 years. Consequently, we were disappointed that the proposed plan announced by your Department on November 8th would open no new areas of the OCS for assessment and leave exploration and development activities focused in the same places where we have been looking for a generation. We continue to believe that any new five year leasing plan should allow for the consideration of expanding into new areas, such as offshore Virginia, as envisioned when the moratoria were lifted.

We recognize that in the wake of the Gulf spill, your Department has moved aggressively to implement new safety and environmental regulations and that you have stated publicly that your Department would not be authorizing new activity if you did not believe it was being done safely. Given these regulatory changes, as well as actions taken by industry to restore confidence, we believe it is time to move ahead in facilitating new access to the OCS and that waiting until 2017 at the earliest to initiate these activities does not serve the public interest. Moreover, the public is strongly supportive of new offshore access and is anxious to realize the promised economic benefits from new access to American resources rather than continuing our overreliance upon foreign sources of energy.

We ask that you take into account these views as you consider the Proposed Five Year Plan for 2012-2017. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



TX-17







M. M.

Samuel Lettice UT-3

Tom Graves

Dynn Jenkins

Steve King

Sam Johnson

Robt E. Jatta

R. Caraco TX-23

[Signature]

Eric Fine OH-15

J. Markert

J. J.

Larry Buckner

De H. H.

Bill Hinga

Nike Coffman

M. S. T.

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Chris G. Ziegler

Bin Long MD

Hum

Orion Black

Penfield NC

Blair J. Ferguson

Randy Kuegel

Blake Farenthold

Thick Jackson

Ch. J. J. J.

Scott Long

Paul R. S. S.

W. K.

McBarr

Rob Woodall

Sam Wamck

Mike McButyre

Dy Walden

John J. Durso
~~Call: C. P.~~

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Pete Sessner

John M. Chynoweth

Quentin B. Adelman

Don P. Baker

Chas. G. Kelly

Ken Young

Mac Thurgood
Andrzej Majallo

John Emerson

Jo Bamber

Rubin Hernandez

Al Green

John Bann

Fred D. Lucas

Joe Terry

John Callenson

Ralph M. Hall

Robert

K. Mitchell

Steven

Kent Starks

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Ed Whitfield

David Rees

Cathy McNamee Rodgers

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Erin Cole

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Michelle Bachmann

Miguel Pompos

Cynthia P. Lumis

Jeff Davis

W. Collier

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Bill Shuster

Tommy

Laura Blackburn

Tommy

Scott Q. Tipton

Paul Olson

Kristen Nem

Robert Alexander

Peter Roskam

Bill Johnson

Wadd Watata

R.L. Hamner

Jeff Felt

Kay Granger

Frank R. Wolf

G.A. Brey

Gregg Harper

Fr. Bony

Brett Guthrie

Patrick J. Toomey

Bill B. Miller

Tim Murphy

Paul C Brown

Mark Fulzgo

John Carter

D. R.

David P. Ree

J. N. Clark

THAT

To To To

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John Flory

Tim Walberg

Wally Hulse

Steve Garcia

Joe Walsh

AK

John Sun

John Amstrong
Dally Heger
Sue Camp

Adrian Smith

Buz King

James
Chuck Kelly

Doug Lawrence
Mule (m)

Mike Roy
Anna Hunt

Tom Marino

Bob M.D.

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Michael A. Green

Austin Sutt

Mark Foley

Paul A. Moran, D.D.S.

Joe Heck

Steve Cusumano

Lou Barletta

Geoff Davis

Virginia Fox

Sam

Alan Nunnelee

Joe Barton

Bob Goodlatte

Jay Pitts

Clasw Dunt

Candice S. Miller

Scott Schneider

Tim Griffin

Boyd

Jim Jordan

Tom Sisk

Sam Johnson

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Howard Coble

Cliff Stangor
Steve Clot

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Igor Rubin

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M. L.

Vicky Hartzler

Reil G. Bull

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D. A.

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Z. Simpson

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Robert	Wittman
Jim	Costa
Robert	Aderholt
Todd	Akin
Rodney	Alexander
Jason	Altmire
Mark	Amodei
Steve	Austria
Michelle	Bachmann
Spencer	Bachus
Lou	Barletta
John	Barrow
Roscoe	Bartlett
Joe	Barton
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Rob	Bishop
Diane	Black
Marsha	Blackburn
Jo	Bonner
Dan	Boren
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Kevin	Brady
Mo	Brooks
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Larry	Buschon
Ken	Calvert
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Bill	Cassidy
Steve	Chabot
Jason	Chaffetz
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Chip	Cravaack
Rick	Crawford
Mark	Critz
Henry	Cuellar
John	Culberson
Geoff	Davis
Jeff	Denham

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Sam	Johnson
Bill	Johnson
Jim	Jordan
Mike	Kelly
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Peter	King
Jack	Kingston
Adam	Kinzinger
John	Kline
Raul	Labrador
Doug	Lamborn
Jeff	Landry
James	Lankford
Tom	Latham
Robert	Latta
Billy	Long
Frank	Lucas
Blaine	Luetkemeyer
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Donald	Manzullo
Kenny	Marchant
Tom	Marino
Jim	Matheson
Michael	McCaul
Tom	McClintock
Patrick	McHenry
Mike	McIntyre
David	McKinley
Cathy	McMorris Rodgers
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Tim	Murphy
Randy	Neugebauer
Kristi	Noem
Alan	Nunnelee
Pete	Olson
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Collin	Peterson
Joe	Pitts
Ted	Poe
Mike	Pompeo
Ben	Quayle
Tom	Reed
Dennis	Rehberg

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Scott	DesJarlais
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John	Duncan
Renee	Elmers
Jo Ann	Emerson
Blake	Farenthold
Jeff	Flake
John	Fleming
Randy	Forbes
Virginia	Foxx
Trent	Franks
Elton	Galleghy
Cory	Gardner
Jim	Gerlach
Phil	Gingrey
Louie	Gohmert
Charlie	Gonzalez
Bob	Goodlatte
Paul	Gosar
Kay	Granger
Tom	Graves
Sam	Graves
Al	Green
Tim	Griffin
Michael	Grimm
Frank	Guinta
Brett	Guthrie
Ralph	Hall
Richard	Hanna
Gregg	Harper
Andy	Harris
Vicky	Hartzler
Doc	Hastings
Joe	Heck
Jeb	Hensarling
Wally	Herger
Ruben	Hinojosa
Bill	Huizenga
Randy	Hultgren
Duncan	Hunter
Robert	Hurt
Sheila	Jackson Lee

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Reid	Ribble
Scott	Rigell
David	Rivera
Martha	Roby
Phil	Roe
Harold	Rogers
Mike	Rogers (AL)
Mike	Rogers (MI)
Dana	Rohrabacher
Todd	Rokita
Peter	Roskam
Mike	Ross
Dennis	Ross
Steve	Scalise
Bobby	Schilling
Aaron	Schock
David	Schweikert
Tim	Scott
Austin	Scott
Pete	Sessions
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Bill	Shuster
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Lamar	Smith
Cliff	Stearns
Steve	Stivers
John	Sullivan
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Glenn	Thompson
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Fred	Upton
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