

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

August 16, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

The United States is in a unique and strong position today because of the abundant oil and natural gas safely produced across the country and off our coasts. Once heavily dependent on foreign sources of energy, our status as an energy superpower not only provides our nation with greater energy security, but also enhances our national security efforts at home and abroad. We applaud your commitment to making the U.S. "energy dominant" and look forward to the development of a new National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. In the development of this program, it is imperative that we fully consider all OCS lands, including those not part of the current 2017-2022 Program, to ensure opportunities are not missed.

The onshore energy renaissance has made the U.S. the number one producer of oil and natural gas in the world. Our adversaries and rivals across the globe are paying attention. We have the opportunity to further secure our global position by encouraging exploration and leasing in new OCS areas and encouraging investment in traditional offshore development areas. Production from the OCS requires vast capital expenditures on long-term projects with long lead times. Just as today's energy security is the result of production set in motion by decisions made years ago, the decisions on OCS leasing and development facing the Department today will lay the groundwork for our energy and national security for decades. Therefore, it is critical that leasing in the Gulf of Mexico continues and that we look for new energy resources in areas not included in the 2017-2022 Five Year OCS Leasing Program. There is demonstrated interest in the leasing and development of previously excluded areas, and we must consider these areas for development to optimize our nation's resource potential.

The safe and environmentally responsible development of our offshore resources not only enhances our status as an international energy superpower, but benefits the nation through increased job creation, additional government revenue, and affordable and reliable energy supplies for consumers and manufacturing. The time is now to make the U.S. energy dominant. Expanding access to the available resource potential of the OCS during the development of a new National Leasing Program can solidify our energy superpower position into the future. We look forward to working with the Department on an offshore energy policy that puts America first, creates new jobs and government revenue, and enhances our economy as a whole.

Sincerely,



Rob Bishop
Chairman

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Steve Scalise

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Danyang

Tom Graves

Bob Goodlatte

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Dan Rostenkowski

Craig Harper

Paul Ryan

J. Morgan Kousser

Austin Scott

Virginia Foxx

Dan Uhlir

Steven Palazzo

Clay Higgins

Don Burt

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Paul Cook

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Did Roush

Rich W. Allen

ROTHJ.

Rob Shuman

Ray Shuman

Rob Woodall

Richard Hucker

John Price

Barbara Comstock

Sam Roush

Roll E. Jatta

Michael T. McLaughlin

Bert Dick

Tim Murphy

K. M. Hinkley

Macwayne Mullin

Don Bill

Sam Jones

Pat Tihari

Don Bith

Ever Jenkins

Mimi Walters

Lucy Messer

Don B...

Roll E. Jatta

Dein No

Bruce Westerman

Dlem GT Thompson

Red Brown

John Moorman

Robert Patterson

Pat Mite

Jim Gahie

Adrian Smith

Chris Smith

John R. Cliffe

Mike Ditmars

Gary Johnson

Paul V. Annu

David P. Roe

Buddy Carter

Gene Wagner

Will Hurd

Phil Kelly

Randy H. Webb

Bill Johnson

Burt Cramer

Andy Biggs

Lynn Jenkins

Doug Allen

Andy Barr

Dan La Hood

Ann Antle

G. V. H.

Roger Williams

Alex X. Mooney

John

John

Lou Barletta

Jon Batton

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