

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2008

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
Committee on Appropriations
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Dicks and Ranking Member Tiahrt:

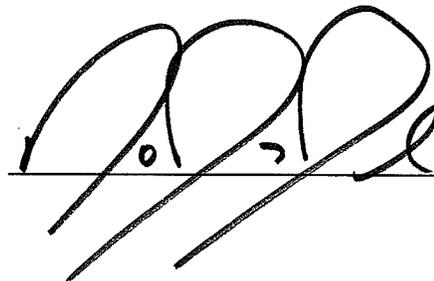
We are writing to express our strong support for the longstanding bipartisan legislative moratorium on new mineral leasing activity on submerged lands of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). We are deeply appreciative of the leadership your Subcommittee has shown on this issue over the years and hope to work with you this year to continue this vital protection.

The legislative moratorium language prohibits the use of federal funds for offshore leasing, pre-leasing and other oil and gas drilling-related activities in moratoria areas, enhancing protection of these areas from offshore oil and gas development. As you know, in 1990 President George H. W. Bush signed an executive memorandum placing a ten-year moratorium on new leasing on the OCS. In 1998, this moratorium was renewed by President Bill Clinton and extended until 2012. President George W. Bush has endorsed the moratorium and has included it in his 2009 budget. These actions have all been met with public acclaim and are necessary steps to preserve the economic and environmental value of our nation's coasts.

With a renewed interest in developing natural gas and oil on the OCS, we believe it is again imperative for Congress to reaffirm its authority on this issue. Therefore, we respectfully urge you to include the OCS moratorium language in the fiscal year 2009 Interior and Environment Appropriations legislation. Specifically, we ask you to use the language in Sections 104 and 105, Division F – Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Appropriations Act, Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-161). These sections restrict oil and gas activities within the OCS in the North Atlantic planning area, Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic planning areas, Eastern Gulf of Mexico planning area (south of 26 degrees north latitude and east of 86 degrees west longitude); Northern, Southern and Central California planning areas, and the Washington and Oregon planning area.

Once again, we encourage the Subcommittee to support these important provisions, which represent over 25 years of bipartisan agreement on the importance of protecting the economically and environmentally valuable coastal areas of the United States. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Aale S. Kaldor

George Miller

Howard L. Berman

Connie Brown

Mylene Waters

Tom Van

John A. LoBundo

Phyllis Fanning

Maana Rees Lehtinen

Robert Wehl

Dennis J. Kuenrich

Earl Blumenauer

Henry G. Williams

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Bill Pascrell Jr.

Allyson Sheehan

Judith Rodin

Robert Menendez

Tommy Fraboni

Justin R. Sizemore

Carol Shea-Power

Margie K. Hirono

Ralph A. Abner

Barry Louder

Jewell Walker

Jim Saxton

Timothy Diaz-Fuentes

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Mike & Michael

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Raul M. Grijalva

Chang Shy

Rush Holt

Jim Langwin

Mike Ferguson

John G. Evans

Tony

Kathy Castor

Connie Mack

Jim McDermott

Pete Stark

Frank Pallone Jr

Walter G. Brown

Deis O. Matsui

Ru Kline

Joe Whaley
Helen L. Solis

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Re: Offshore Drilling Moratorium
March 19, 2008

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