

**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

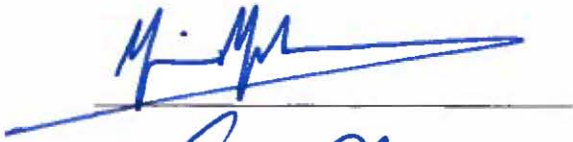
Sincerely,

  
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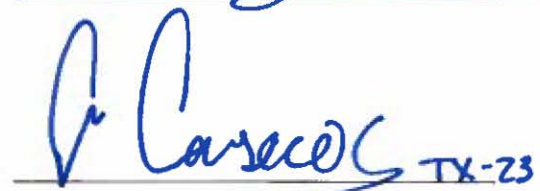
Tom Graves

Dynn Jenkins

Steve King

Sam Johnson

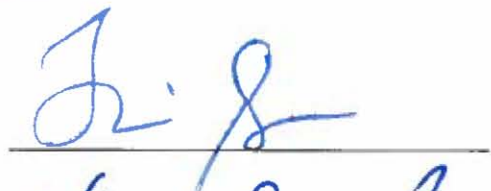
Robt E. Jatta

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 OH-15





Larry Buckner





Nike Coffman

MSA



Chris G. Ziegler

Bin Long MD

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Orion Black

Penfield NCos

Blair Juffer

Randy Neugebauer

Blake Farenthold

Thick Jackson

Ch. Bentley

Jeff Long

Paul C. Sclafani

JK

McBarr

Rob Woodall

Jim Wamsler

Mike McButyre

Dy Walden



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

Joe Wilson

Pete Sessner

John M. Chapman

Quinn B. Adair

Don Buchanan

Chas. Kelly

Don Young

Mac Thurgood  
Frank Magallo

John Emerson

Jo Bamber

Rubin Ferguson

Al Green

John Bann

Fred D. Lucas

Joe Terry

John Culberson

Ralph M. Hall

Bob Dole

K. Mitt Lang

Steven Leavitt

Kent Starks

John Kline

Don Edwards

Carl Albert

Ed Whitfield

Harold Rogers

Cady McCombs Rodgers

Ryan A. Latta

Jim Mattie

Mark Amodeo

Louis Gohmert

Shelley Moore Capito

Jack Kingston

Tim Cole

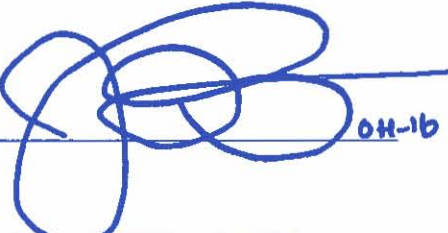
Wynne Allen

Miguel Pomposo

Jeff Davis

Adrian

Mark V. Andrus

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Bill Shuster

Laura Blackburn

Jenny Reberg

Michelle Bachmann

Cynthia P. Lumma

W. Collier

Glenn G. Thompson

Michael T. McCaul

Ron Paul

Tommy

Long



Scott Q Tipton

Paul Olson

Kristen Nem

Rodney Alexander

Peter Roskam

Bill Johnson

Wadd Watata

R L Hamner

Jeff Felt

Kay Granger

Frank R. Wolf

G A By

Gregg Harper

Fi Bony

Brett Guthrie

Patrick J. M. Henry

Bill B. Miller

Tom Murphree

Paul C Brown

Mark Sulzgo

John Carter

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David P. Ree

J. N. Clark

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Tom Riew

Jason Altman

John Flinn

Tim Walberg

Wally Hodge

Steve Garcia

Pat Walsh

AK

John Swin



John Amstrong  
Dally Heger  
Sue Camp

Adrian Smith

Buz King

James Hill  
Chuck Kelly

Doug Lawrence  
Mule (m)

Mike Roy  
Anna Hunt

Tom Marino

Paul M.D.

Paul M.D.

Michael A. Ginn

Austin Sutt

Mark Foley

Paul A. Moran M.D.

Joe Heck

Steve Cusumano

Lou Barletta

Geoff Davis

Virginia Fox

Sam

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Joe Barton

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Scott Schneider

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Bob

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Tom Sisk

Sam

Ken Yoder  
Howard Coble

Cliff Stangor  
Steve Clot

Ken Calvert  
Igor Rubin

J. S. 11-19  
J. R. Forke

Lamar Smith

M. L.

Vicky Hartzler

Reil G. Bull

Frank Minut

D. O.

Rick Crawford

Brie Simpson



Bill	Flores
Gene	Green
Robert	Wittman
Jim	Costa
Robert	Aderholt
Todd	Akin
Rodney	Alexander
Jason	Altmire
Mark	Amodei
Steve	Austria
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Spencer	Bachus
Lou	Barletta
John	Barrow
Roscoe	Bartlett
Joe	Barton
Rick	Berg
Rob	Bishop
Diane	Black
Marsha	Blackburn
Jo	Bonner
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Kevin	Brady
Mo	Brooks
Paul	Broun
Michael	Burgess
Larry	Buschon
Ken	Calvert
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Shelley Moore	Capito
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Bill	Cassidy
Steve	Chabot
Jason	Chaffetz
Howard	Coble
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Tom	Cole
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Rick	Crawford
Mark	Critz
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John	Culberson
Geoff	Davis
Jeff	Denham

Lynn	Jenkins
Sam	Johnson
Bill	Johnson
Jim	Jordan
Mike	Kelly
Steve	King
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
Cynthia	Lummis
Donald	Manzullo
Kenny	Marchant
Tom	Marino
Jim	Matheson
Michael	McCaul
Tom	McClintock
Patrick	McHenry
Mike	McIntyre
David	McKinley
Cathy	McMorris Rodgers
Candice	Miller
Mick	Mulvaney
Tim	Murphy
Randy	Neugebauer
Kristi	Noem
Alan	Nunnelee
Pete	Olson
Steven	Palazzo
Ron	Paul
Stevan	Pearce
Collin	Peterson
Joe	Pitts
Ted	Poe
Mike	Pompeo
Ben	Quayle
Tom	Reed
Dennis	Rehberg

Charles	Dent
Scott	DesJarlais
Mario	Diaz-Balart
Jeff	Duncan
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

Jim	Renacci
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
John	Shimkus
Bill	Shuster
Adrian	Smith
Lamar	Smith
Cliff	Stearns
Steve	Stivers
John	Sullivan
Lee	Terry
Glenn	Thompson
Mac	Thornberry
Scott	Tipton
Fred	Upton
Tim	Walberg
Greg	Walden
Joe	Walsh
Lynn	Westmoreland
Ed	Whitfield
Joe	Wilson
Frank	Wolf
Steve	Womack
Rob	Woodall
Kevin	Yoder
Don	Young