

TOM RICE

7TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
223 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TEL: (202) 225-9895
FAX: (202) 225-9690



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4007

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY

August 17, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary, United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

I'm writing today to provide comments to the 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

Grand Strand's beaches serve as the lifeblood of the local community and an economic engine to the entire state. It's no secret that tourism is the leading industry in South Carolina. Every year, some 17 million visitors flock to Myrtle Beach on vacation, generating hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue that goes to fund infrastructure, education, and health care around the state. During my time in Congress, I have fought hard to ensure the continued success of our beaches. After Hurricane Matthew tore down the coast, leveling dunes and washing sand offshore, I worked in Congress to secure funding to restore the beaches.

While drilling off the coast of South Carolina may have economic benefits, it comes with potential risks. With the success of fracking, the cost of a barrel of oil has plummeted. Offshore drilling no longer enjoys the economic prospects it once held. However, the risks still exist. As such, I oppose opening up the coast of South Carolina for oil and gas production.

Sincerely,

Tom Rice
Member of Congress

GRAND STRAND REGIONAL OFFICE:
2411 NORTH OAK STREET
SUITE 405
MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29577
TEL: (843) 445-6459
FAX: (843) 445-6418

RICE.HOUSE.GOV
FACEBOOK.COM/REP TOM RICE
TWITTER.COM/REP TOM RICE
YOUTUBE.COM/REP TOM RICE
INSTAGRAM.COM/REP TOM RICE

PEE DEE REGIONAL OFFICE:
1831 WEST EVANS STREET
SUITE 300
FLORENCE, SC 29501
TEL: (843) 679-9781
FAX: (843) 679-9783