

# Fish, Game and Forestry Committee

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Secretary Ryan Zinke,  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of the Secretary  
1849 C Street NW.  
Washington, DC 20240  
Email: [oiea@ios.doi.gov](mailto:oiea@ios.doi.gov)

RE: 2019-2024 Draft Proposed National Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Dear Secretary Zinke:

As elected Senators in the South Carolina General Assembly, we stand with Governor Henry McMaster in asking that the State of South Carolina be excluded from the 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

We share our Governor's concern about that "massive refineries, gas storage tanks, and other large-scale maintenance and operating facilities are not economically compatible with existing coastal residential and resort development or with our protected sea islands, estuaries and tidal marsh refuges."

Every city and town council along the South Carolina coastline has voted to oppose seismic testing and offshore drilling for oil and gas. We object to prioritizing the interests of the oil and gas industry above the concerns of these coastal communities.

We urge the Department of Interior to refocus agency resources to identify strategies to expand clean energy sources. South Carolina is eager to advance clean and renewable energy to allow future generations to enjoy unlimited supplies of American-made, pollution-free energy.

In conclusion, we repeat Governor McMaster's words from his State of the State: "We cannot stop hurricanes, but we can avoid oil spills. We cannot take a chance. We must do whatever it takes to preserve this economic paradise we call 'the beach, the marsh, the coast and the Lowcountry. It is made of gold.'"

Sincerely,

Clyde Canyon #43

Brad Hutto #40

Stacy Nichols #10

Tommy #32

Matt. W. #30

Ken Ball #7

Tom Davis #46

Roger #16

Wes. Rankin #33

Mark Simpson #42

Thompson #35

Joe #19

Dan #41

Glenn Reese #11

Tom #36

Min #22

Bill #17

Madge Bright Matthews #45

Julie #29

CC:

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Ms. Kelly Hammerle  
Chief, National Oil and Gas Leasing Program  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166-9216

South Carolina Senate Signers of Letter to Secretary Zinke and BOEM re: 2019-2024 DPP:

Senator Chip Campsen/R/43

Senator Marlon Kimpson/D/42

Senator Brad Hutto/D/40

Senator Thomas McElveen/D35

Senator Floyd Nicholson/D/10

Senator John Scott/D/19

Senator Ronnie Sabb/D/32

Senator Sandy Senn/R/41

Senator Kent Williams/D/30

Senator Glenn Reese/D/11

Senator Karl Allen/D/7

Senator Kevin Johnson/D/36

Senator Tom Davis/R/46

Senator Mike Fanning/D/17

Senator Greg Gregory/R/16

Senator Margie Bright Matthews/D/45

Senator Luke Rankin/R/33

Senator Gerald Malloy/D/29

(original signatures attached)