



Steven B. Miner
County Administrator

COUNTY OF ACCOMACK
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

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February 12, 2016

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe
Office of Governor State Capitol
Third Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Oil Drilling off the Coast of Virginia

Dear Governor McAuliffe:

For reasons directly related to our economy, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors has taken a firm position of opposition to off-shore drilling in areas off the Virginia coast. We have heard of comments indicating the Shore has not registered its concerns to you or your administration as you contemplate your position on the matter and we wish to ensure that you are aware of our concerns. It is not a new position for the County. The County of Accomack adopted a resolution in 2009 when the issue first arose and went on record then against allowing the activity.

The activity proposed would have a very negative affect on two operations which have a sustaining effect on our economy – rocket launches from both the Wallops Island and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceports, as well as the Navy's activity at its Surface Combat Systems Center on Wallops Island. I understand that Florida has prevented growth of the oil industry off of its coast. We should do the same. To launch rockets into space is a very expensive proposition and adding costs to empty oil platforms, often for days, and the added insurance requirements would surely be the death knell for the opportunities the Commonwealth itself has heavily promoted.

Additionally, the Navy was so concerned in 2009 that it went on the record in opposition, a rare and unusual stance. Oil derricks have a negative impact on the ranging and radar equipment used in the defense systems installed on Wallops Island, used in conjunction with assets brought from Patuxent

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe
Governor of Virginia

February 15, 2016

River NAS to train our sailors and those of our allies. For your information, the Navy has approximately \$1 billion of assets on the island for this purpose and much of the VACAPES training range in the area which would be open for drilling. There are about 800 jobs tied to the Navy activity here.

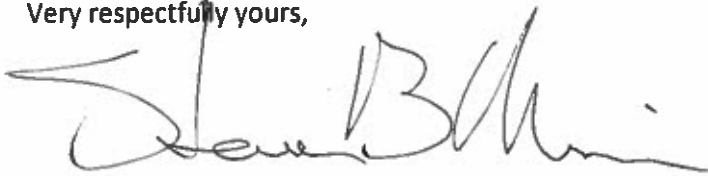
We understand the allure of new jobs and respect your desire to foster job growth at a time when the Commonwealth surely needs them. However, the cost to our current economic base and the potential damage to our tourism industry are far too large to ignore.

Please end this activity before it is started. This oil is not needed and the costs of production are surely higher than what it would worth on today's markets. The Commonwealth should not put a vitally important segment of the Virginia economy at risk for such a relatively small gain.

Thank you.

I am,

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Miner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "M".

Steve Miner
Accomack County Administrator