

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We, the undersigned businesses and organizations, representing over 12,000 businesses and 500,000 commercial fishing families, are writing to strongly oppose geological and geophysical (G&G) activities in the Atlantic Ocean, including but not limited to seismic airgun testing. Seismic airgun testing threatens our vibrant local coastal economies and is the first step towards dangerous offshore drilling.

Last month, Atlantic coast businesses came together to form a new coalition, the Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast (BAPAC), with the mission of ensuring the long term health and economic vitality of the Atlantic seaboard through responsible stewardship of the coastal and ocean waters. The Alliance represents thousands of businesses and is opposed to seismic testing for oil and gas in the Atlantic. We support the Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast.

In March 2016, the Department of the Interior removed the proposed Atlantic lease sale from the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Program. With the Atlantic Ocean withdrawn from the current offshore drilling plans, seismic airgun testing is unnecessary, would significantly impact coastal economies—in particular our commercial fishing and tourism industries—and should not proceed.

Seismic airgun testing for subsea oil and natural gas deposits is an extremely disruptive activity in the ocean. A significant body of peer-reviewed science has demonstrated that seismic airgun testing can cause the catch rates of some commercial fish species to plummet, displace fish over large areas, and broadly disrupt the feeding and breeding behaviors of whales and other marine life. Seismic also invites offshore drilling and the industrialization of our coast. Communities along the Atlantic coast rely on healthy ocean ecosystems to support the nearly 1.4 million jobs and to continue to contribute \$95 billion to the annual gross domestic product, mainly through fishing, tourism and recreation.

Although the Atlantic Ocean is protected from oil and natural gas drilling for now, G&G exploration using seismic airgun testing continues to threaten productive fisheries, marine organisms, and ocean ecosystems. As business owners and business organizations concerned about the economies of our Atlantic Coast states, we ask that you protect our ocean resources from unnecessary harm and deny all current and future G&G oil and gas permits in the Atlantic Ocean.

Sincerely,

Frank Knapp

South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce

**Business Organizations:**

Climate Action Business Association (CABA)  
Cape May County Chamber of Commerce  
Carteret County Chamber of Commerce  
Chesapeake Sustainable Business Council  
Green America's Business Network  
Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition  
Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance  
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce  
Savannah Riverkeeper  
The Duck Merchant's Association  
Virginia Beach Restaurant Association

**Full List:**

7 Mile Brewery, LLC  
A1 Taxicab LLC  
AIL  
Alice L Timmons,, LLC  
Aurora Electric Inc  
B&P, Inc.  
Balanced meridian  
Beach Mart Inc  
Berkshire Hathaway HS Fox & Lazo  
Better World Club  
BG Financial Advisors, LLC  
Bob construction LLC  
Borough of Stone Harbor  
Brauer Holdings, Inc.  
CABA  
Cape May Brewery  
Cape May County Chamber of Commerce  
Cape Publishing, Inc.  
CAROLINA COUNTERTOP  
Carolina Designs Realty, Inc.  
Carteret County Chamber of Commerce  
Charleston Shirt Factory  
Chesapeake Sustainable Business Council  
COMPACT II, INC.  
Corolla Wild Horse Fund  
CPC Industrial  
Croc's 19th Street Bistro  
Dammit.1050 dba HyperCyb.org  
Dare County Democratic Party

Decka Inc  
Dirt Enterprises  
Dog Friendly Billmae Cottage  
Earth Friendly Products  
eCommerce Outdoors  
Eileen Fisher, Inc.  
Errol for Avon  
Feather Your Nest  
Fine D. Zine  
FLORIDA OBX, LLC  
Gaiss' Market  
Global Urban Solutions  
Green America's Green Business Network  
Greenvest  
Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition  
Half Moon Outfitters  
Hammond-Beyer Health Center  
HEA LLC  
Home consumers  
Hornsby computer  
HotelGuides.com  
Ibis Communications  
Inland Shrimp Company/FreshSeafoodUSA  
JCEDC  
Just for the beach rentals  
LaMER, Inc.  
Leith Hall Bed and Breakfast  
Loftis Timber  
Lowcountry Engineering Consultants, LLC  
Lowcountry Estuarium  
Maguire Therapy Services,inc.  
mako mikes restaurant  
McMahon Agency Inc.  
Meyers Management, LLC  
Midgette Auto Supercenter  
Midlands Neighborhood Publications  
MWJ Real Estate Solutions  
Nature Adventures Outfitters  
Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance  
OceanFirst Bank  
Outer Banks Centre for Dance  
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce  
Outer Banks Heating & Cooling  
Outer Banks Paddleboard

Outer Banks Realty Group, LLC  
Outer Banks Voice  
Pawleys Island Pharmacy of Litchfield  
Phoenix Restoration  
Plants As Art  
Poseidon Ventures, Inc.  
Project Green Light, Inc  
Property Management  
Real Escapes Ltd  
Rover Tours, Inc.  
Savannah River Keepers  
Savannah Riverkeeper  
Savannah Riverkeeper  
SC Lowcountry Tourism Commission  
Sea Mountain Spirits, Inc.  
Sea Swept LLC & The Duck Merchant's Association  
ServiceMaster of the Shore Area  
site-image, llc  
SolVen Hospitality  
SoundSide Pools, Inc.  
South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce  
Stockton Inns  
Sun Realty Corolla NC  
Surf Song Beach Resort Rental Program  
SUTHERLAND COMPANY  
The Inn on Pamlico Sound  
Third Avenue Partners  
Tom Vickers Construction  
Town of Nags Head  
Town of Nags Head  
Tycoon Tackle, Inc.  
Unruly  
Visiting Angels of Northeastern NC Inc  
Window Genie of South Jersey  
Wise Brown Enterprises  
Wright Consulting & Training, Inc.