

Florida Coastal & Ocean Coalition

PRESERVING THE SANDY AND SALTIER SIDES OF FLORIDA'S ENVIRONMENT

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

November 15, 2016

Dear President Obama,

Thank you for removing the Atlantic Ocean from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

To date, 120 municipalities in East Coast states have formally opposed oil and gas development in the Atlantic, including the coast of Florida. Together, these municipalities represent 90% of the coastline that would be at direct risk from seismic airgun blasting, from Cape May, New Jersey to Cape Canaveral, Florida. Additionally, over 1,100 business interests and over 1,200 federal, state and local legislators have opposed oil and gas exploration or development in the Atlantic.

It is clear that Atlantic coastal communities, elected leaders, and other stakeholders do not want offshore oil and gas development, including offshore drilling and seismic airgun blasting. We will never support the destruction of our ocean, which supports our economies and way of life.

The oceans that span beyond the coast of Florida are home to diverse marine animals, including endangered sea turtles and the Northern Right Whale. These animals, along with other thriving marine life found in the waters of the Atlantic, deserve our protection.

We are grateful that the Atlantic is no longer being considered for offshore drilling in the upcoming five-year program. However, our ocean is priceless and our coastal assets are far too valuable to ever put at risk of oil and gas development. We urge you to use your presidential authority to permanently protect the Atlantic Ocean and our communities from offshore drilling and seismic airgun blasting.

Sincerely,

Jessica Farrell, Policy Coordinator
Manley K. Fuller, Steering Committee Member, Florida Wildlife Federation
Gary Appelson, Steering Committee Member, Sea Turtle Conservancy
Holly Parker, Steering Committee Member, Surfrider Foundation
Ryan Smart, Steering Committee Member, 1000 Friends of Florida

Florida Coastal and Ocean Coalition
Tallahassee, Florida