



# MARYLAND SALTWATER SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION

## ATLANTIC COAST CHAPTER

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

10 November 2016

Dear President Obama,

The 7,500 combined members of the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association would like to thank you for ceasing the seismic airgun blasting, and the exploration of oil and gas. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program has galvanized citizens from all aspects of life and has brought individuals from both political parties together to oppose this endeavor. Our organization consists of a broad range of members from a vast assortment of professions and retirees. We all love to fish, be outdoors, try to be good stewards to our environment, and put an emphasis on passing these traditions to our children.

Throughout the Mid-Atlantic Coast there are many small towns and cities that rely on the tourism industry for their economic existence. Thousands of jobs have been created in this area because of tourism. People come to fish, swim, dive, sit on a beach and all could be destroyed and ruined for decades.

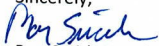
Here on the Delmarva Peninsula, 11 coastal municipalities, representing the entirety of our Atlantic Coast from Lewes, Delaware to Northampton County, Virginia passed resolutions opposing not only offshore drilling, but also seismic airgun surveys in the Atlantic. These resolutions joined no fewer than 120 other municipalities in East Coast states in formally opposing oil and gas development in the Atlantic. In fact, 90% of the coastline that would be at direct risk from seismic airgun blasting, from Cape May, New Jersey to Cape Canaveral, Florida have passed resolutions formally opposing oil and gas development off their coast. These resolutions have been joined by over 1,100 business interests and over 1,200 federal, state and local legislators in voicing opposition to oil and gas exploration or development in the Atlantic.

The exploration of oil and gas along the Mid-Atlantic Coast would cause Atlantic oil and gas development off the Delmarva Coast would put more than economies and communities at risk. With the largest stretch of undeveloped coast line anywhere from Maine to

Florida, the barrier islands along Delmarva's Atlantic Coast are a global ecological treasure and recognized as such by the United Nations. These barrier islands are used by thousands of migratory bird species and any harm done to this fragile ecosystem could have dramatic ripple effects to environments from Canada south to South America.

Please know that 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. MSSA urges you to use your presidential authority to permanently protect the Atlantic Ocean and our communities from offshore drilling and seismic airgun blasting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Smith".

Ron Smith President

ACC/ MSSA