



City of Charleston

JOHN J. TECKLENBURG
MAYOR

December 7, 2016

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

Dear President Obama:

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

For over 300 years, Charlestonians have nurtured an economy and a way of life that have grown dependent on our rich natural resources along the shores of our creeks, rivers, marshes, and beaches. The water is a part of who we are. Today, Charleston can be considered a heart of the region's tourism industry, with over 5 million visitors in 2015, generating an economic impact of over \$3.7 billion according to the Office of Tourism Analysis at the College of Charleston School of Business. Charleston is a perennially top-ranked destination by Condé Nast Traveler and Travel & Leisure magazines.

With this perspective, I saw your decision to withdraw the Atlantic from the five-year program as a clear reflection of the will of most Charlestonians. Indeed, the Charleston City Council and 22 other local governments in coastal South Carolina have issued resolutions or formal letters in opposition to offshore drilling and/or seismic airgun blasting off of our coast. In December of 2015, 450 South Carolina businesses publicly joined the call for protection, noting that offshore drilling would jeopardize the booming tourism economy of our coast and the livelihoods of tens of thousands along the state's shores.

To fully realize the potential of Charleston and to ensure that generations to come will be able to enjoy our city as much as our generation does, we must continue to protect our natural resources that make this such a unique place to call home. One major way we can achieve this is through the permanent protection of the Atlantic from offshore oil and gas drilling. We urge you, Mr. President, to ensure an oil-free Atlantic and to use your authority to enact permanent protections against offshore oil and gas drilling and seismic blasting in the Atlantic.

Sincerely,

John J. Tecklenburg
Mayor, City of Charleston

Copy to:

Mr. Chris Carnevale

Ms. Samantha Siegel

Mayor Keyserling