

**STATE OF MARYLAND  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

February 26, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Offshore Oil and Gas Development

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Maryland stands ready to support the Administration in its work to increase domestic energy production, conserve energy, and address climate change. I have placed strong emphasis on greater use of renewable energy sources, coupled with enhanced energy conservation as an effective long term energy strategy. Maryland is investing in new green technologies and aggressively pursuing offshore wind energy. However, I reiterate my long-standing opposition to offshore oil and gas development in the Mid-Atlantic region (Maryland, Virginia and Delaware).

The threat of oil spills and their direct and indirect effects on coastal ecosystems and economies raises serious questions about the ultimate cost and benefit of pursuing leasing in particularly sensitive coastal environments like the Mid-Atlantic. The impacts of oil and gas exploration and development activities, including oil spills will not only affect the Atlantic coast beaches but also our estuaries and bays. Our Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and we are committed to controlling pollution from all sources as well as protecting and restoring habitat and living resources. Maryland recognized the potential deleterious impacts of oil and gas drilling on the estuarine environment when it passed the law prohibiting drilling in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. We must ensure that drilling in our ocean waters does not negate the Nation's commitment to the Bay or the protective measures passed by the State.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin O'Malley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "O".

Governor

