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Dear President Obama:

I want to commend you on the work that you have done for our environment over the past eight years. I truly appreciated seeing the work that we discussed at the *White House Conference on Conservation* come to life and have a positive impact on the Sea Islands of the Gullah/Geechee Nation coastline.

Your work that stopped the oil drilling off our the Atlantic coast is also to be highly commended. However, I and the people of the Gullah/Geechee Nation are very concerned about the negative impact that seismic gun testing and potential revisiting of oil drilling could have on the continuation of our unique culture which I know you are well aware of due to your invitation to have us as part of your last inaugural parade and given the First Lady's family heritage. Our fishing and other sea work traditions would be greatly harmed by any seismic testing or oil drilling and our fisheries are literally how we sustain our families. We are inextricably tied to the Atlantic Ocean and the waterways surrounding our Sea Islands. So, to that end, I am joining a number of others that are asking that you insure that there is a permanent ban on oil drilling and seismic guns use on the Atlantic coast.

I am sure that the rich unique cultural heritage of the Gullah/Geechee which has been already congressional recognized is important to you and your staff. I have seen your support for the national treasures that we have and given that our area has the Gullah/Geechee National Heritage Area running through it, I know that you understand the value of protecting this region from any potential harm that could come due to the building of oil rigs and/or having an oil leak or spill as we have all witnessed in the Gulf. So, I truly look forward to receiving a positive response from you in regard to all of this.

I look forward to having the opportunity to shake your hand once again as I did many years ago at the *Jefferson Awards* and also during the *White House Conference*. This time it will be not just as a greeting, but as a thank you for your work truly protecting this coastline that is the homeland of my people and the Gullah/Geechee culture.

Thank you for taking the time to address this matter in the midst of all the other work that you have under way. Continue to have safe travels. GOD bless you and your family.

Peace,

Queen Quet

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Chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation
Founder, **Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition**