

President Barack Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington, DC 20500

November 18, 2016

Re: Oil and Gas Exploration and Development in the Atlantic

Dear President Obama:

I would like to express my gratitude for your administration's diligent and excellent environmental record in many areas, but particularly in your efforts to fight climate change and limit exploration and development of oil and gas in the Atlantic. As your administration is aware, the Atlantic coast is replete with diverse and sensitive fishery resources. These contribute greatly to coastal economies which are to a great extent based on tourism. Oil and gas development with its catastrophic risks to the aquatic environment and extensive shoreline infrastructure needs has absolutely no place along our precious coastline.

Fossil fuel exploration and development would result in direct negative effects on our coast's resources from seismic testing, potential catastrophic and cumulative small persistent leaks and spills, and displacement of sensitive shoreline environments for needed infrastructure. Moreover, such development only delays desperately needed transition to clean, renewable energy sources in light of climate change.

Overwhelming coastal citizenry support accompanied your actions to remove the Atlantic from the five-year plan. Unfortunately, this does not provide a permanent solution to reducing risk from oil and gas development in the Atlantic. As you are well aware, the "drill baby drill" mentality will assuredly be the mantra of the incoming administration. If there is a way to permanently remove the Atlantic from such activities, I strongly urge you to pursue it.

I consider your presidency the best I've experienced in my lifetime from many perspectives including social justice, health care, economic recovery from a devastating recession and foreign affairs. Your accomplishments are even more impressive because they were achieved with an uncooperative congress. If you are able to permanently protect the Atlantic from oil and gas exploration and development, you will cement your environmental legacy for all time.

Sincerely yours,



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