

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell  
The Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

May 6, 2014

Dear President Obama and Secretary Jewell:

We the undersigned are writing to urge you to halt proposed seismic airgun testing for oil and gas in the Atlantic Ocean. Proposed seismic airgun testing would span from Delaware to Florida, but the impacts would be felt in communities throughout the entire East Coast—potentially harming sea life, ecosystems, fisheries and coastal economies.

The use of airguns to conduct these seismic tests threatens fish populations and profitable fisheries. In fact, airgun noise has been shown to decrease catch rates of certain fisheries. Commercial and recreational fishing off the mid and south Atlantic generate billions annually and support hundreds of thousands of jobs. The Department of the Interior's assessment ignores the economic impacts the proposed seismic testing will have on fisheries and the fishermen who rely on the oceans for their livelihoods.

Additionally, the type of seismic airgun testing used to search for oil and gas is incredibly harmful and could injure or possibly kill thousands of marine mammals and fish, including the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale. Seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air - almost as loud as explosives - every 10-12 seconds, 24 hours a day, for days to weeks on end. These loud airgun blasts can be heard for many hundreds of miles in the ocean and can drive whales to abandon their habitats, go silent, and cease foraging over vast areas. At shorter distances, airguns can cause permanent hearing loss, injury, and even death for whales, dolphins and fish.

Proposed seismic airgun testing will result in serious negative impacts to our marine resources that form the foundation of economic vitality for communities all along the Atlantic coast. We urge your administration to stop this process and focus on ensuring the vitality of vulnerable coastal economies along the Atlantic Coast. We cannot continue to put our ocean environment, beaches, marine resources, and coastal economies at risk.

Sincerely,

Alma Adams  
State Representative - District 58, NC

Harry Aumack  
Mayor - Keyport, NJ

Henry W. Ayer III  
City Councilmember - Poquoson, VA

Kumar Barve  
State Representative - District 06, MD

Andrea Boland  
State Representative - District 142, ME

Sheryl Briggs  
State Representative - District 93, ME

Angela Bryant  
State Senator - District 04, NC

Becky Carney  
State Representative - District 102, NC

Janice Cooper  
State Representative - District 107, ME

Tricia Cotham  
State Representative - District 100, NC

Traci-Dale Crawford  
City Councilmember - Poquoson, VA

Mark Danish  
State Representative - District 63, FL

Matthea Daughtry  
State Representative - District 66, ME

James Dill  
State Representative - District 14, ME

John Ducey  
Mayor - The Township of Brick, NJ

Adam Ebbin  
State Senator - District 30, VA

Gary Engelstad  
Mayor - Bradley Beach, NJ

Tim Eustace  
Assemblyman - Maywood, NJ

Jean Farmer-Butterfield  
State Representative - District 24, NC

Richard Farnsworth  
State Representative - District 117, ME

Barbara Favola  
State Senator - District 31, VA

Susan Fisher  
State Representative - District 114, NC

Amy Foster  
Councilmember - St. Petersburg, FL

Thomas Giblin  
Assemblyman - Clifton, NJ

Rick Glazier  
State Representative - District 44, NC

Duane Hall  
State Representative - District 114, NC

Diane Hanson  
Mayor - Dewey Beach, DE

Denise Harlow  
State Representative - District 116, ME

Pricey Harrison  
State Representative - District 57, NC

Shiela Hixson  
State Representative - District 03, MD

Yvonne Holley  
State Representative - District 38, ME

Patrick Hope  
State Delegate - District 47, VA

James Hubbard  
State Representative - District 04, MD

Tom Hucker  
State Representative - District 20, MD

Verla Insko  
State Representative - District 56, NC

Darren Jackson  
State Representative - District 39, NC

Victoria Jackson-Stanley  
Mayor - Cambridge, MD

Debbie Johnson  
Councilmember - Port Wentworth, GA

Paul Keyserling  
State Representative - District 01, SC

Yvonne Johnson  
Mayor Pro tempore - Greensboro, NC

Robert Keeler  
Mayor - Beach Haven, NJ

Steven Kornell  
City Councilmember - St. Petersburg, FL

Kaye Kory  
State Delegate - District 38, VA

Rick Kriseman  
Mayor - St. Petersburg, FL

Chuck Kruger  
State Representative - District 48, ME

Mamie Locke  
State Senator - District 02, VA

Thomas Longstaff  
State Representative - District 109, ME

Benjamin Lucarelli  
Mayor - Fair Haven, NJ

Paul Luebke  
State Representative - District 30, NC

Eric Luedtke  
State Representative - District 13, MD

Bruce MacDonald  
State Representative - District 61, ME

Ben Malik  
Commissioner - Cocoa Beach, FL

Ann Mallek  
White Hall Supervisor - Albemarle County  
Board of Supervisors, VA

Maria Mark  
County Commissioner - Atlantic Beach, FL

Grier Martin  
State Representative - District 34, NC

Chuck Maschal  
Councilman - Beach Haven, NJ

Anne-Marie Mastraccio  
State Representative - District 143, NC

A. Donald McEachin  
State Representative - District 09, VA

Graig Meyer  
State Representative - District 50, NC

Aruna Miller  
State Representative - District 01, MD

Annie Mobley  
State Representative - District 05, NC

Karen Montgomery  
State Representative - District 14, MD

Dan Morhaim  
State Representative - District 11, MD

Terry Morrison  
State Representative - District 122, ME

Anthony Moyer  
Mayor - Harrington, DE

Mary Mulhern  
City Councilmember - Tampa, FL

Catherine Nadeau  
State Representative - District 54, ME

Shirley Nathan-Pulliam  
State Representative - District 10, MD

Mary Nelson  
State Representative - District 112, ME

William Noon  
State Representative - District 144, ME

Earline Parmon  
State Senator - District 32, NC

Buzz Petsos  
Mayor Pro tempore - Cape Canaveral, FL

Rocky Randels  
Mayor - Cape Canaveral, FL

Sam Rasoul  
State Delegate - District 11, VA

Bobbie Richardson  
State Representative - District 07, NC

David Richardson  
State Representative - District 113, FL

Gladys Robinson  
State Senator - District 28, NC

Diane Russell  
State Representative - District 120, ME

Deane Rykerson  
State Representative - District 151, ME

Linda Sanborn  
State Representative - District 130, ME

Adam Schneider  
Mayor - Long Branch, NJ

William Schroeder  
Mayor - Point Pleasant, NJ

Nancy Sikes-Kline  
Vice Mayor - Saint Augustine, FL

Todd Smallwood  
Councilmember - Fenwick Island, DE

Paul Smith  
Mayor - Union Beach, NJ

Emilie Swearingen  
Town Councilmember - Kure Beach, NC

Kristin Szakos  
City Councilmember - Charlottesville, VA

Gerald Tarantolo  
Mayor - Eatontown, NJ

Sharon Treat  
State Representative - District 79, ME

Betty Walsh  
City Councilmember - Cape Canaveral, FL

Susie Walters  
Mayor Pro tempore - Nags Head, NC

Joan Welsh  
State Representative - District 64, ME

Winkie Wilkins  
State Representative - District 02, NC

Mike Woodard  
State Senator - District 22, NC

Michael Wray  
State Representative - District 27, NC