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OFFICE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

January 30, 2015

Hon. Sally Jewell, Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Nation's Outer Continental Shelf  
(OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing  
Program for 2017-2022

Dear Secretary Jewell:

On behalf of our colleagues in municipal office, up and down New Jersey's maritime coast; on behalf of the workers and businesspeople whose livelihood depends on the health of our coastal waters; on behalf of the millions of visitors who annually visit our ocean and bay beaches for rest and recreation; on behalf of the millions who count on our salt water fisheries for nourishment and enjoyment; and on our own behalf, we write to register our objections to the recently announced draft plan to permit oil and gas exploration on a site, yet to be determined, somewhere off the shores of our southern Atlantic Coast neighbors.

This latest proposal in the development of the Nation's Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022 will put at risk a fragile and priceless ecosystem that supports an irreplaceable and diverse array of marine life. Further, Atlantic Coast drilling will jeopardize New Jersey's \$38 billion tourist industry, which has just begun to recover from the havoc wreaked by Superstorm Sandy. Tourism in New Jersey provides 312,000 jobs to our Garden State friends and neighbors. These could also be lost when drilling operations, sabotage or a natural disaster result in a spill.

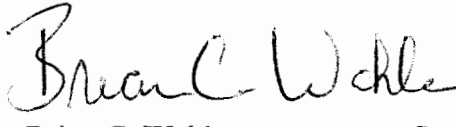
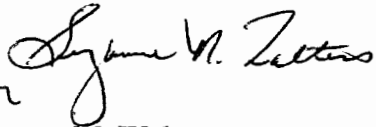
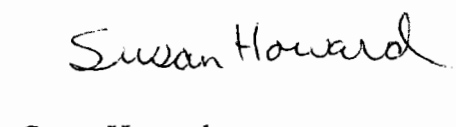
Respectfully, we cannot support such a risk.

We, therefore, join U.S. Senators Bob Menendez and Cory Booker, New Jersey Congressmen Frank Pallone and Frank LoBiondo and a chorus of other responsible leaders at all level of government in urging you to withdraw this proposal.

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Thank you for your consideration and for your continuing commitment to protect, for all future generations of Americans, clean air, clear water, fertile soils and all other treasured resources.

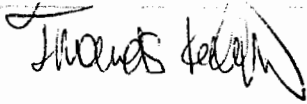
Very truly yours,

Brian C. Wahler  
President, NJLM  
and Mayor, Piscataway

Suzanne M. Walters  
Mayor, Stone Harbor

Susan Howard  
Mayor, Monmouth Beach



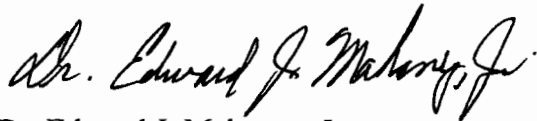
Thomas F. Kelaher  
Mayor, Toms River



Albert B. Kelly  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, NJLM  
and Mayor, Bridgeton



Donald Guardian  
Mayor, Atlantic City



Dr. Edward J. Mahaney, Jr.  
Mayor, Cape May City

WGD/sc

c: Hon. Robert Menendez, US Senator  
Hon. Cory Booker, US Senator  
Hon. Frank Pallone, Senator, District 6  
Hon. Frank LoBiondo, Senator, District 2