

May 24, 2017

Secretary Ryan Zinke
United States Department of Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Zinke:

As representatives and members of organizations working with and on behalf of millions of Latino, African American, Asian American, indigenous communities, we write to express our strong opposition to expanded oil and gas drilling and seismic testing in the waters off our coasts.

Opening our oceans to expanded Atlantic and Arctic drilling leaves us all vulnerable to disasters that pose an unacceptable risk to our oceans, beaches, coastal communities, marine life, and to the livelihood of the millions of Americans who depend on healthy oceans for fishing, recreation, and tourism dollars.

Our oceans belong to all of us—the American people—and should be preserved and protected, not turned over to private companies for their short-term and short-sighted financial gain. Far more Americans want to preserve our oceans than to turn them over to oil companies to exploit and worsen already dangerous pollution. By opening up the Arctic and Atlantic to risky drilling, you put our waters and coastal communities at grave risk of a major oil spill and worsening effects of climate change.

Communities in the United States and around the world are directly suffering the impacts of climate change on their health, security, and way of life, and want action. Our communities cannot wait. Not only are we more likely to experience asthma, sea-level rise, and other negative health impacts due to the pollution driven by carbon and other fossil-fuels, millions in our communities rely on healthy oceans to sustain our economies and feed our families. Our future depends on clean renewable energy, not sacrificing our oceans to drill for oil that harms our families' health and pollutes our world.

Clean energy is now the fastest-growing and cheapest source of power in the country. Far more Americans want to preserve our oceans than sell them to oil companies to exploit. We call on you to listen to us, the American people, and not forsake our oceans, businesses, and future by allowing drilling off our shores and beaches.

Sincerely,

AFC+A
América Verde
Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council
Azul
Conejos Clean Water
Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice
CLEO Institute
Diverse Environmental Leaders
Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition
Farmworker Association of Florida
Gracefully Global Group
Grand Canyon Trust
Green For All
GreenLatinos
Hip Hop Caucus
IDEAS for US
Joshua's House, Inc.
LULAC
MANA
Mi Familia Vota
Mujeres de la Tierra
National Family Farm Coalition
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
NOW Strategies
Organize Florida
Project Earth
Project Economic Refuge
Sachamama
SolarFour
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Speak Hispanic
T.E.J.A.S.
Praxis Project
UMA Mother
VERDE
Voces Verdes