



Tim Eustace
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The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

I write in response to the federal register notice by the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) announcing a new five- year plan under the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas leasing Program, and the formal Request for Information.

I am a New Jersey State Legislator representing the 38th District. I serve as Chairman on the Environment and Solid Waste Committee, Vice Chair on the Health and Senior Services Committee, and on the Commerce and Economic Development Committee. I am also a healthcare provider practicing chiropractic medicine for over 30 years.

With years of experience in public policy protecting human health, the environment, and economy, it is clear to me that offshore oil and gas exploration, development and production have no place in the ocean, and most certainly not off the Jersey Shore.

The Jersey Shore in particular depends on a clean ocean economy. Tourism revenues generated by the shore are roughly \$32 billion and are the lifeblood of the state's economy. For example, Tourism Economics, a research company, evaluated [New Jersey's 2016](#) tourism data. According to their recent statement, "including indirect and induced impacts, tourism in New Jersey generated \$4.9 billion in state and local tax revenues. Without the tourism industry, each New Jersey household would need to pay \$1,525 in order to maintain the current level of state and local government services."

Moreover, the ocean and coast are rich with vibrant and diverse marine life that also depends on a clean environment. These resources serve as the foundation for the

commercial and recreational fishing industry which produces billions of dollars in landings and sales, as well as supports seafood restaurants locally and around the world.

Hundreds of thousands of citizens depend on the ocean for their livelihood, and millions more enjoy the many joys of the sea for exercise, rest and relaxation.

All these benefits would be at risk should fossil fuel exploration, development and/or production be allowed. The loss of life and images of destroyed communities and devastated marine life from the BP Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico still haunt me and many to this day and have yet to see the full impact of the spill.

America should be leading the world away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy sources. Sea level rise, warming oceans, drastic harmful weather, and ocean acidification are all linked to our burning carbon. We must reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

I urge you to stop pursuing offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Eustace". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

Assemblyman
Tim Eustace