Routing Slip for DIRBOE-14-0181-- Appropriate Action --

Control Information

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<tr>
<td>SECRETARY</td>
<td>JEWELL</td>
<td>SALLY</td>
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Subject: COMMENTS ON THE 2017-2022 FIVE YEAR OIL & GAS LEASING PROGRAM

Comments:
To (Recipient): Jewell, Sally
From (Author): Nelson, Bill; Jolly + 11 Representatives, David W
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Subject Text: Comments on the 2017-2022 Five Year Oil and Gas Leasing Program
Req. Surnames: LM; OCL; SOL
Mail Carrier: Mail Track #: Cross Ref:
Copies To: SIO-OES
Status Tracking: 09/03/2014 14:44:36 PM - Lisa Cannuscio: Use same surnames with prototype letter
Correspondence Specialist and Phone: SIO-OES Lisa Cannuscio/202-208-2443
Closed Comments:
Signed:
August 27, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

As you begin the process for developing the Five Year Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022, we urge you to make clear that your agency will maintain statutory protections for the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area from offshore drilling for oil and gas. The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA, P.L. 109-432) implemented a moratorium for most of the eastern Gulf of Mexico, which is in place until 2022.

Over four years have passed since the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster, which took the lives of 11 rig workers and spilled more than 4.9 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. Floridians are well aware of what another oil spill in the region could do, from spoiling beaches that attract tourists from all over the world to damaging productive fisheries and coastal communities.

The eastern Gulf of Mexico is also protected to preserve mission-critical military activities. According to the most recent report on the compatibility of Department of Defense (DoD) activities with oil and gas resource development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico would interfere with the majority of training and weapons testing areas. For example, Pensacola’s Eglin Air Force Base is now the training site for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, which demands thousands of acres of airspace over the Gulf’s open water.

The 2012-2017 Five Year Program makes more than 75 percent of the offshore oil and gas resources in federal waters available for development, but oil and gas companies still only produce on less than a quarter of the available offshore leases. The Department should aggressively encourage the development of the millions of acres already available for leasing before offering a single acre more.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Senator Bill Nelson

Representative David W. Jolly
Representative Joe Garcia

Kathy Castor
Representative Kathy Castor

Gus Bilirakis
Representative Gus Bilirakis

Vern Buchanan
Representative Vern Buchanan

Ted Deutch
Representative Ted Deutch

Alcee Hastings
Representative Alcee Hastings

Jeff Miller
Representative Jeff Miller

Steve Southerland II
Representative Steve Southerland II

Patrick Murphy
Representative Patrick Murphy

Lois Frankel
Representative Lois Frankel

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Fwd: FL Delegation Letter to Jewell

Harding, Stephenne <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Sep 3, 2014 at 10:32 AM
To: Fay Ludicello <fay_ludicello@ios.doi.gov>, Robert Howarth <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Lee Tilton <lee.tilton@boem.gov>

FYI

——— Forwarded message ———
From: Sher, Lauren (Bill Nelson) <Lauren_Sher@billnelson.senate.gov>
Date: Wed, Sep 3, 2014 at 9:22 AM
Subject: FL Delegation Letter to Jewell
To: "Stephenne Harding (stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov)" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

Stephenne,

I hope you are well. I've attached a letter to Secretary Jewell regarding the Eastern Gulf Planning Area and the next five year leasing plan.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Lauren

——

Stephenne Harding
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Stephenne_Harding@ios.doi.gov
202-208-6174 (desk)
202-341-8080 (cell)

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691K