

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We the undersigned Members of Congress write to thank you and the Department of the Interior (DOI) for removing the Atlantic Ocean lease sale from the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Program.

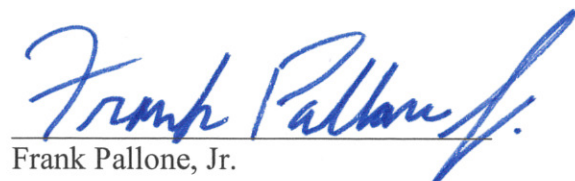
On behalf of our constituents and all those opposed to offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean, we thank you for recognizing that offshore drilling along the East Coast is an unnecessary risk to our coastal economies and incompatible with important existing coastal activities, and we hope that the DOI will take the necessary steps to prevent any offshore drilling in these regions in the future. Nearly 1.4 million jobs and over \$95 billion in gross domestic product are generated by healthy ocean ecosystems from tourism, fisheries, and coastal recreation. Additionally, Atlantic drilling could potentially impede ongoing military and space exploration activities along the coast. Your Administration listened to more than 110 East Coast municipalities, as well as to the concerns of more than 850 federal, state, and local elected officials and 1,100 business interests that have publically opposed offshore development.

Our nation has seen the devastation that comes from offshore drilling. From the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, to the chronic leaks happening on a daily basis from wells and infrastructure in the Gulf of Mexico, to failed infrastructure like that which caused the Santa Barbara disaster, oil spills do not respect state boundaries and pose grave risks to coastal communities and marine life.

We appreciate the Administration's willingness to listen to our constituents and protect the healthy oceans that are our economic drivers and crucial to our coastal ways of life.

Sincerely,


Donald S. Beyer Jr.


Frank Pallone, Jr.



Alan Lowenthal



Gerald E. Connolly



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson



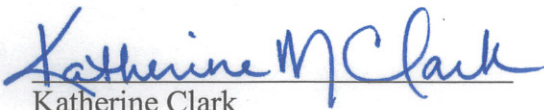
Ted Deutch



Jim Langevin



Eleanor Holmes Norton



Katherine Clark



Raúl M. Grijalva



Corrine Brown



Donald Norcross



Donna F. Edwards



Chris Van Hollen



G. K. Butterfield



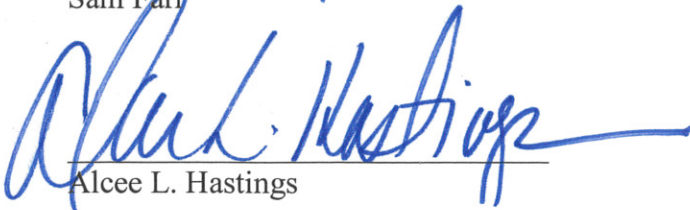
Lois Frankel



Sam Farr



Alan Grayson



Alcee L. Hastings



Bonnie Watson Coleman


Patrick E. Murphy


Seth Moulton


Matt Cartwright

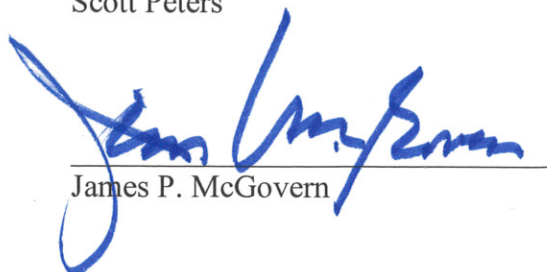

Kathy Castor


Barbara Lee



Mark Pocan

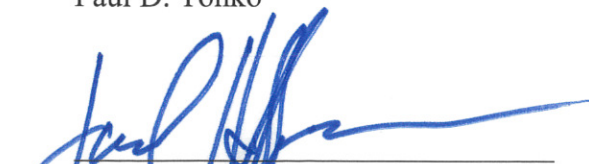

Mike Quigley



Scott Peters



James P. McGovern

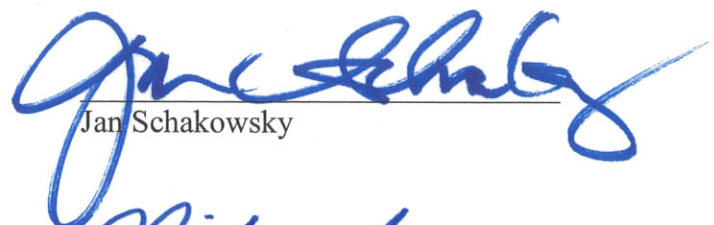

John Carney


Paul D. Tonko


Jared Huffman


Maxine Waters

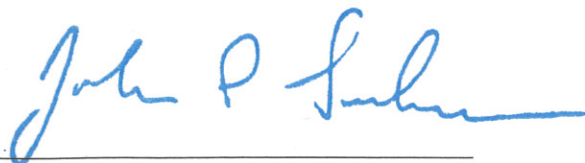

Bill Pascrell, Jr.


Jan Schakowsky

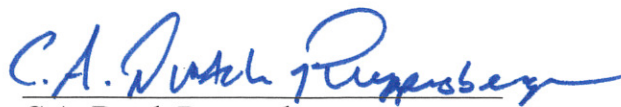

Niki Tsongas


Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

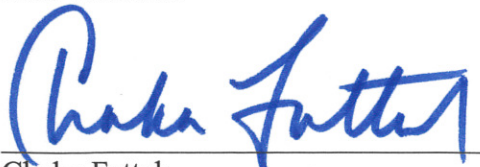

Lois Capps



John Sarbanes



C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger



Chaka Fattah



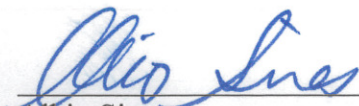
David E. Price



William R. Keating



John Delaney



Albio Sires



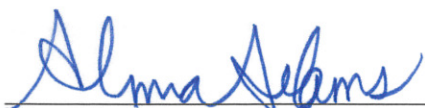
John B. Larson



Elijah E. Cummings



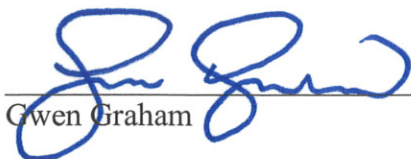
Debbie Wasserman Schultz



Alma S. Adams



Earl Blumenauer



Gwen Graham