President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We, the undersigned businesses and organizations, representing over 12,000 businesses and 500,000 commercial fishing families, are writing to strongly oppose geological and geophysical (G&G) activities in the Atlantic Ocean, including but not limited to seismic airgun testing. Seismic airgun testing threatens our vibrant local coastal economies and is the first step towards dangerous offshore drilling.

Last month, Atlantic coast businesses came together to form a new coalition, the Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast (BAPAC), with the mission of ensuring the long term health and economic vitality of the Atlantic seaboard through responsible stewardship of the coastal and ocean waters. The Alliance represents thousands of businesses and is opposed to seismic testing for oil and gas in the Atlantic. We support the Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast.

In March 2016, the Department of the Interior removed the proposed Atlantic lease sale from the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Program. With the Atlantic Ocean withdrawn from the current offshore drilling plans, seismic airgun testing is unnecessary, would significantly impact coastal economies—in particular our commercial fishing and tourism industries—and should not proceed.

Seismic airgun testing for subsea oil and natural gas deposits is an extremely disruptive activity in the ocean. A significant body of peer-reviewed science has demonstrated that seismic airgun testing can cause the catch rates of some commercial fish species to plummet, displace fish over large areas, and broadly disrupt the feeding and breeding behaviors of whales and other marine life. Seismic also invites offshore drilling and the industrialization of our coast. Communities along the Atlantic coast rely on healthy ocean ecosystems to support the nearly 1.4 million jobs and to continue to contribute $95 billion to the annual gross domestic product, mainly through fishing, tourism and recreation.

Although the Atlantic Ocean is protected from oil and natural gas drilling for now, G&G exploration using seismic airgun testing continues to threaten productive fisheries, marine organisms, and ocean ecosystems. As business owners and business organizations concerned about the economies of our Atlantic Coast states, we ask that you protect our ocean resources from unnecessary harm and deny all current and future G&G oil and gas permits in the Atlantic Ocean.

Sincerely,

Frank Knapp
South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce
**Business Organizations:**
Climate Action Business Association (CABA)
Cape May County Chamber of Commerce
Carteret County Chamber of Commerce
Chesapeake Sustainable Business Council
Green America’s Business Network
Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition
Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce
Savannah Riverkeeper
The Duck Merchant’s Association
Virginia Beach Restaurant Association

**Full List:**

7 Mile Brewery, LLC
A1 Taxicab LLC
AIL
Alice L Timmons, LLC
Aurora Electric Inc
B&P, Inc.
Balanced meridian
Beach Mart Inc
Berkshire Hathaway HS Fox & Lazo
Better World Club
BG Financial Advisors, LLC
Bob construction LLC
Borough of Stone Harbor
Brauer Holdings, Inc.
CABA
Cape May Brewery
Cape May County Chamber of Commerce
Cape Publishing, Inc.
CAROLINA COUNTERTOP
Carolina Designs Realty, Inc.
Carteret County Chamber of Commerce
Charleston Shirt Factory
Chesapeake Sustainable Business Council
COMPACT II, INC.
Corolla Wild Horse Fund
CPC Industrial
Croc’s 19th Street Bistro
Dammit.1050 dba HyperCyb.org
Dare County Democratic Party
Decka Inc
Dirt Enterprises
Dog Friendly Billmae Cottage
Earth Friendly Products
eCommerce Outdoors
Eileen Fisher, Inc.
Errol for Avon
Feather Your Nest
Fine D. Zine
FLORIDA OBX, LLC
Gaiss' Market
Global Urban Solutions
Green America's Green Business Network
Greenvest
Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition
Half Moon Outfitters
Hammond-Beyer Health Center
HEA LLC
Home consumers
Hornsby computer
HotelGuides.com
Ibis Communications
Inland Shrimp Company/FreshSeafoodUSA
JCEDC
Just for the beach rentals
LaMER, Inc.
Leith Hall Bed and Breakfast
Loftis Timber
Lowcountry Engineering Consultants, LLC
Lowcountry Estuarium
Maguire Therapy Services, inc.
mako mikes restaurant
McMahon Agency Inc.
Meyers Management, LLC
Midgette Auto Supercenter
Midlands Neighborhood Publications
MWJ Real Estate Solutions
Nature Adventures Outfitters
Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance
OceanFirst Bank
Outer Banks Centre for Dance
Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce
Outer Banks Heating & Cooling
Outer Banks Paddleobard
Outer Banks Realty Group, LLC
Outer Banks Voice
Pawleys Island Pharmacy of Litchfield
Phoenix Restoration
Plants As Art
Poseidon Ventures, Inc.
Project Green Light, Inc
Property Management
Real Escapes Ltd
Rover Tours, Inc.
Savannah River Keepers
Savannah Riverkeeper
Savannah Riverkeeper
SC Lowcountry Tourism Commission
Sea Mountain Spirits, Inc.
Sea Swept LLC & The Duck Merchant's Association
ServiceMaster of the Shore Area
site-image, llc
SolVen Hospitality
SoundSide Pools, Inc.
South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce
Stockton Inns
Sun Realty Corolla NC
Surf Song Beach Resort Rental Program
SUTHERLAND COMPANY
The Inn on Pamlico Sound
Third Avenue Partners
Tom Vickers Construction
Town of Nags Head
Town of Nags Head
Tycoon Tackle, Inc.
Unrulily
Visiting Angels of Northeastern NC Inc
Window Genie of South Jersey
Wise Brown Enterprises
Wright Consulting & Training, Inc.