



December 13, 2016

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

Dear President Obama,

The incoming Trump Administration appears increasingly prepared to roll back efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions and to promote fossil fuel production, which likely will include an aggressive push to expand offshore drilling. We respectfully request that you invoke your authority under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to impede these efforts.

Please stop any new offshore drilling leasing in the Pacific, Atlantic, and Arctic Oceans, and the Gulf of Mexico. This is your last chance as President to stand up to Big Oil and protect the oceans, coasts, and communities that rely on these precious resources. The oil and gas industry has shown time and again that it is unwilling or unable to avoid devastating spills. Even seismic airgun blasting, the process to locate offshore oil and gas deposits, is extremely disruptive and dangerous to marine life.

There is no evidence that tapping offshore oil and gas deposits is necessary to meet our domestic energy needs. Expanded offshore drilling will only benefit the profits of oil companies. Meanwhile, our already damaged ocean ecosystems, our coastal communities, and our global climate will pay a heavy price.

If we allow further offshore leasing, we will lock the United States into expanding our fossil fuel infrastructure and our reliance on fossil fuels for many years. Exploiting these reserves would release up to 61.5 gigatons of carbon dioxide. For the sake of the planet's climate, we need to completely stop the expansion of offshore drilling. The challenge of climate change demands bold action from our leaders, especially now that the stakes are raised even higher. Please act now to protect our oceans, coasts, and global climate.

Sincerely,

Marc Yaggi
Executive Director
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