



June 14, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of 43,000 businesses in U.S. East Coast states, we are writing to express our strong support for a moratorium on new offshore drilling. As the House considers the FY 2020 Interior-Environment funding bill, we urge you to support all efforts to block expanded offshore drilling through the amendment process.

The Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast (BAPAC) represents hard working Americans from Maine to Florida who understand the value of clean beaches and ocean ecosystems untainted by oil spills. Our members are generational fishing families, hospitality workers, restaurant owners, seafood processors, and recreational users of the ocean and our coastal waterways. Healthy beaches and oil-free coastlines mean growth for our businesses and a sustained livelihood for our employees and customers.

Despite encouraging news that plans to drill off our coast may have been delayed, President Trump's proposal to open over 90 percent of the Outer Continental Shelf to drilling still stands and could resume at any time. **Congressional action is needed, and we are counting on your support to block expanded offshore drilling.**

As you know, there is a long-standing congressional precedent for protecting our coasts from offshore drilling through the Interior-Environment annual funding bill. Beginning in 1982, Congress, for almost 30 years, restricted spending on Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing and drilling activities through moratoria renewed annually in the department's funding bill. We understand that amendments could be voted on very soon and we respectfully urge your strong support of efforts to protect our coast via the amendment process.

Between fishing, tourism, and ocean-based recreation, Atlantic coastal industries that could be impacted by offshore drilling support over 1.5 million jobs and nearly \$108 billion in GDP. Opening the Atlantic to offshore drilling is a permanent decision with real consequences. The oil industry has the potential to dismantle our economies, drive out business and change our ways of

life. We know that offshore drilling leads to oil spills, and regardless of size, oil spills harm our fisheries, tourism industries and clean coast economies overall.

This bipartisan approach is our best chance to protect our coast from offshore drilling this year. Please support all efforts to reinstate a moratorium and ensure that amendments to block expanded offshore drilling activities come to a vote as the House considers the Interior-Environment appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Tom Kies, President
The Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast (BAPAC)

CC:

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
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The Honorable Jim McGovern
Chairman
Committee on Rules
U.S. House of Representatives
H-312, U.S. Capitol
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