



June 11, 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 over 3,800 Pacific Coast businesses, 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 Pacific Coast (BAPPC) is the leading business voice opposing new and expanded oil and gas development off the Pacific Coast because of the unacceptable and unnecessary risk it poses to our businesses and the lifestyles of our customers and employees. BAPPC aims to ensure the long-term health and vitality of our ocean ecosystems, coastal businesses, communities, and clean energy future.

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.

Offshore drilling threatens nearly 746,000 jobs and nearly \$53 billion in GDP along the West Coast for only twelve month's-worth of oil and four month's-worth of gas*. Opening the Pacific 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,

Business Alliance for Protecting the Pacific Coast

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
Chair
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim McGovern
Chairman
Committee on Rules
U.S. House of Representatives
H-312, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

* *Clean Coast Economy* - <https://usa.oceana.org/publications/reports/clean-coast-economy>