

6/10/2019

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 2,000 Florida gulf 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 Florida Gulf Coast Business Coalition (GCBC) is a diverse coalition of businesses and industries that are committed to protecting Florida's Gulf Coast from the devastation of oil and gas exploration and drilling. Tourism is the major economic driver in the state of Florida, with beaches attracting roughly 126 million tourists and bringing in over 108 billion dollars each year. Healthy beaches and clean water mean growing businesses and more jobs. Protecting the moratorium on drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico is critical to preserving our quality of life. Healthy beaches and oil-free coastlines mean growth for our businesses and a sustained livelihood for our employees and customers.

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.

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,

Florida Gulf Coast Business Coalition

www.ProtectTheGulfCoast.org

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