



July 30, 2024

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

Dear Mr. President:

We represent over 55,000 coastal businesses and 500,000 fishing families along the Pacific, Atlantic, and Florida Gulf Coasts that generate billions of dollars in annual economic activity throughout the country. Our members understand that dirty and dangerous offshore drilling directly threatens the marine ecosystems they rely on. That same drilling also worsens climate change which brings growing risks to the health and livelihoods of our communities every year. We know we need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and safeguard our coastlines and ocean economies for generations to come. We are writing to request bold action from President Biden through permanent protections of the entire Atlantic Coast and Eastern Gulf of Mexico, nearly half a million square miles of coast from Maine to Florida, from future offshore drilling.

Since February 2018, the Business Alliance for Protecting the Pacific Coast (BAPPC), Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast (BAPAC) and the Florida Gulf Coast Business Coalition (FGCBC) have served as the leading business voices opposing new and expanded oil and gas development off our coasts. Our alliances helped facilitate the broad, deep, and bipartisan opposition to offshore drilling over the last decade. From elected officials, concerned citizens, the military, and, of course, tens of thousands of coastal business owners. Together, we advocated for the current 10-year moratorium put in place under the Trump administration that withdraws the Atlantic coast from, North Carolina to Florida, from drilling. The U.S. is producing more oil than any country in the world, and the oil industry already has more than 2,000 offshore drilling leases in U.S. waters totaling over 13 million acres of ocean. A jaw-dropping 80% of this ocean acreage sits totally idle¹. *We don't need any more.* Now, we are urgently seeking a permanent extension of existing protections up and down the Coast, along with the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.

Our coastal economy is invaluable to our national life. The combined coastal counties of the United States would rank third for global GDP if considered an individual country, behind only the entire U.S. and Chinaⁱⁱ. The coastal economy is diverse, making it more resilient than other sectors, and fast growing even in the face of recessionⁱⁱⁱ. Coastal counties produce \$10 trillion in goods and services annually^{iv}, employ nearly 60 million people^v, and are home to 129 million residents^{vi}. In 2019, the marine economy alone produced \$397 billion in GDP through activities like fishing, tourism, recreation, and real estate^{vii}. And that's not all. Our seaports provide inland communities access to international goods and services valued in the hundreds of billions each year.^{viii} Our coasts are powerful, but vulnerable, too. Their communities and economies are inextricably tied to clean coastal waters and beaches, along with a stable climate.

The threat of climate change to our communities and livelihoods is astonishing, but we have not given up on the potential a sustainable and thriving coastal economy has for our future. It is imperative that our elected officials choose bold action over complacency in the face of climate change—to protect what healthy coastline we still have, preserve our ways of life, and build towards new and innovative ways of sustaining our ocean resources so that we can enjoy them sustainably long into the future. Closing our coastlines to offshore drilling would immediately relieve millions of coastal residents from the threat of toxic oil spills and halted commerce while also achieving a significant milestone for climate action. We call on President Biden to uphold his campaign commitment to end new drilling by using his authority under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently withdraw the Atlantic Coast and the eastern Gulf of Mexico from any future offshore oil and gas drilling.

Sincerely,

Grant Bixby, Founding Member, Business Alliance for Protecting the Pacific Coast

Sandra Bundy, President of the Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast

Robin Miller, Chair of the Florida Gulf Coast Business Coalition

The Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast (BAPAC) works to ensure the long-term health and economic vitality of the Atlantic seaboard through responsible stewardship of the coastal and ocean waters. Today, from Maine to Florida we have over 42,000 Atlantic Coast Businesses supporting our prime objective of opposing offshore oil and gas drilling off the Atlantic Coast. BAPAC's supporters include business organizations including state and local chambers of commerce and associations representing hotels, restaurants, commercial fishing, marine industry and tourism.

The Business Alliance for Protecting the Pacific Coast (BAPPC) is the leading business organization working to ensure the long-term health and economic vitality of the Pacific coast economy through responsible stewardship of our coastal and ocean waters. Our broad alliance represents over 8,100 businesses throughout the ocean economy including restaurants, outfitters, hoteliers, retailers of all stripes, chambers of commerce, visitor bureaus, realtor associations and other small business opposed to expanded offshore oil and gas drilling in the Pacific.

The Florida Gulf Coast Business Coalition (FGCBC) is a diverse coalition of over 6,000 businesses and industries that are committed to protecting Florida's Gulf Coast from the devastation of oil and gas exploration and drilling.

ⁱ <https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/oil-gas-energy/leasing/Lease%20stats%207-1-24.pdf>

ⁱⁱ https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD?end=2020&start=2005&year_high_desc=true

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://coast.noaa.gov/data/nationalfacts/pdf/hand-out-marine-economy.pdf>

^{iv} <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/data/coastaleconomy.html>

^v <https://coast.noaa.gov/data/nationalfacts/pdf/hand-out-coastal-fast-facts.pdf>

^{vi} [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2020.B01003?t=Population%20Total&g=010XX00US\\$0500000&y=2020](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2020.B01003?t=Population%20Total&g=010XX00US$0500000&y=2020); <https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDHCVI2020.P1?t=Population%20Total&g=040XX00US60,66,69,78&y=2020>

^{vii} <https://www.bea.gov/data/special-topics/marine-economy>

^{viii} <https://coast.noaa.gov/data/nationalfacts/pdf/hand-out-marine-economy.pdf>