P.O. Box 2245
New Orleans, LA 70176

504.525.1528
healthygulf.org

Public Comments Processing
Attn: BOEM-2025-0483-0001
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, VAM-LD
45600 Woodland Road

Sterling, VA 20166-9216

Re: Opposition to New Lease Sales in the Draft Proposed 5-Year OCS Oil & Gas Leasing Program from Gulf Coast Organizations

Dear Secretary Burgum,

As Gulf Coast organizations and allies, we are concerned about the effect further leasing and drilling in the Gulf will have on our environment, our health, our economy, and our community. We depend on a clean and healthy coastal environment, so we write to express our strong opposition to new oil and gas lease sales in the next 5-Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program. Specifically, we ask that you protect the Eastern Gulf from new oil and gas development, and maintain it as a sanctuary for our diverse ecology.

Firstly, we are opposed to the 11th National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program because it fails to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement, or complete an environmental review disclosing potential harms to the public before proceeding with offshore oil sales. Without environmental review, we are especially vulnerable to the myriad risks associated with oil drilling, including but not limited to: the negative impact on maritime and tourism industries, the devastation of ecosystem health, the bioaccumulation of oil toxins via consumption of local seafood, the air pollution and resulting illness, the rampant decline of coastal real estate values, and overall losses in quality of life.

Additionally, the Eastern Gulf as a protected area is incredibly important. Currently, it serves as a refuge for endangered marine wildlife, like the Rice's whale and several species of sea turtles and dolphins, from the constant noise and pollution from offshore rigs that dominates the central and western Gulf. It also serves as a buffer zone protecting Florida's coast from regular spills and catastrophes like the BP drilling disaster in 2010 and associated ecological, public

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health, and economic risk. Additionally, the Department of Defense claims that unrestricted drilling in the Eastern Gulf infringes upon national security.

Further, these increased leases are entirely unnecessary. The Gulf is already the nation's primary offshore source of oil and gas, generating 97% of all US offshore oil and gas production, producing more oil than any nation in history (BOEM). Additionally, Congress passed a law this year that already mandates 30 offshore oil-and-gas lease sales in the Gulf through 2040. These lease sales are threatening our home to increase fossil fuel companies' profits. However, American taxpayers are left with the costs of cleaning up after corporate failures.

We demand no new leases in the Gulf. In sum: it threatens the public health of our coastal communities, the viability of our industries and economic livelihoods of our constituents, our ecosystems and wildlife. Across the political spectrum, we reject increased leasing in the Gulf.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned

34th Street Wholistic Gardens and Education Center Inc
A Community Voice
Bayou City Waterkeeper
Better Brazoria: Clean Air and Water in BC
Buy-In Community Planning, Inc.
Calusa Waterkeeper
Cherokee Concerned Citizens
Claiborne Avenue Alliance Design Studio
Climate Reality Project Greater New Orleans Chapter
Common Ground Relief
Concerned Citizens of St. John
Culture of Cleanliness
Extinction Rebellion Houston
Fishermen Involved In Sustaining Our Heritage

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Fox Forest Design
Greater New Orleans Interfaith Climate Coalition
GreenFaith
Harvard University
Houston Climate Justice Museum
Inclusive Louisiana
Loyola Environmental Law Society
Micah Six Eight Mission
Oceana
Oil Change International
Operation HomeCare, Inc.
Peace in Practice
Perdido Key Association
Progress Florida
Protect Siesta Key, Inc
Society of Native Nations
Stop Elmhurst Flooding
Taproot Earth
The Raices Collab
Project Third Act Texas
Whimscapes