STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0074
(916) 319-2074
FAX (916) 319-2174

Assembly
California Legislature

LAURIE DAVIES
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-FOURTH DISTRICT

January 20, 2026

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum:

As the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) considers the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program, I write in strong opposition to any offshore oil and gas drilling off the coast of California, especially the inclusion of the Northern California OCS Planning Area, the Central California OCS Planning Area, and the Southern California OCS Planning Area in the DPP for oil and gas leasing disposition.

I write alongside bipartisan voices across California to oppose initiatives aimed at expanding offshore drilling that critically jeopardize our state's vibrant coast, which is vital to both our community and our economy. Over 42 years ago, California Republicans and Democrats worked in tandem to impose a moratorium on offshore drilling in federal waters along the California coast. These leaders understood the catastrophic risks that offshore drilling poses to the economy and environment. Today, I stand with bipartisan leaders to double down and work together to preserve California's most valuable resource.

I represent the 74th Assembly District of South Orange County and San Diego County. My district includes three beach cities and three cities within miles of the coast with Camp Pendleton wedged in between. These cities rely on their coastal location to drive their economies. California's economy accounts for 14% of the nation's GDP, making the health of our coastlines a matter of national economic importance.

NOAA Office for Coastal Management writes that Tourism and Recreation, fueled significantly by the state's coastal and marine resources, generates 47% of California's total GDP and accounts for 67% of employment. In 2021, California's marine economy contributed $51.3 billion to the state's GDP and generated $26.7 billion in wages. California's economic industries are structurally dependent on the condition of its oceans. A single oil spill has the power to devastate years of progress for our coastal ecosystem, significantly outweighing any short-term gains from drilling.

Data directly from my constituents reveal that 69.6% are opposed to offshore oil drilling in California. Additionally, 86.8% supported either prioritizing in-state energy production, advocating for protections that keep California waters closed to new offshore drilling, or both. Just 12.9% believed that expanding offshore drilling in federal waters was the best approach for California's energy future. These numbers reinforce my firm opposition to oil and gas exploration and production off the California coast, which I believe runs counter to the best interests of our citizens.

I understand the pressures to expand domestic oil production to achieve energy security and reduce the United States' dependence on imported energy. I believe in increasing domestic oil production where it is sensible and appropriate, but offshore drilling along the California coast is not the right approach. California has paid the price of offshore oil disasters time and again—and we cannot afford to relive the devastation of the 1969 Santa Barbara oil-rig blowout, the 2015 Refugio State Beach pipeline leak, or the 2021 Huntington Beach spill.

As the 7th largest oil producing state in the nation, Californians consume approximately three times more oil than we produce, importing about eight hundred and eighty thousand (880,000) barrels of oil a day. California can, and must, do better. In a monumental first step towards closing this gap, the California Legislature passed SB 237, a bipartisan measure to increase oil production in Kern County by allowing up to 2,000 new well permits to be approved by the state, a bill that I strongly supported.

This is a historic motion that strikes a balance between the need for new oil production and expanding responsible in-state production, all without putting our coastline at risk. While there is still more work to be done, California has clearly demonstrated its commitment to increasing oil production where it makes sense.

Thank you for your leadership on domestic oil production in the United States. I appreciate your attention to the needs of coastal cities like those in my district and throughout California. I look forward to future energy policy that considers California's unique coastal position and its economic and environmental priorities.

Sincerely,

Laurie Davies

Laurie Davies
Assemblywoman, 74th District