Ms. Kelly Hammerle
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Sterling, VA

December 12, 2025

Re: Docket ID: BOEM-2025-0483, Comments for the 11th National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Dear Ms. Hammerle,

As a small business owner and ocean policy professional based in Monterey, California I'm writing to express my deep concern with the 11th National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program. I'm also deeply concerned by reports suggesting that no public meetings are expected to receive public input on the Draft Proposed Program, and that the administration may also remove the requirement for draft environmental impact statements.

Around 40% of all Americans live near the coast. Here in California, our ocean economy employs nearly half a million people and generates over $44 billion in annual GDP. This includes tourism, recreation, fishing, and shipping. The Draft Proposed Plan puts all of that at risk. The U.S. Department of the Interior's own modeling shows that for any given year, there is a nearly 40% chance of a spill of 1,000 barrels or more occurring in the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf if leasing and drilling are expanded. Every oil spill starts with a lease sale – here in California, we have seen how devastating offshore drilling is to the health and safety of coastal communities, from toxic air pollution and contaminated waters, to closed fisheries and fouled beaches.

Expanded offshore oil drilling is also short-sighted economically. Instead of investing in cheap, clean energy here at home, the Trump administration is advancing an offshore drilling plan that will tie American energy prices to the higher-priced international energy market. The U.S. should be working to ensure energy independence, bolster national security, and lower prices for all Americans, but right now, this administration is stopping the development of clean energy technologies like wind and solar, which would benefit all Americans with lower energy prices, lower environmental impacts, and strong job creation.

Millions of Americans across the political spectrum have made their opposition to offshore drilling clear. Polling consistently shows that the vast majority of voters want our lawmakers to protect our coasts from offshore drilling. Currently, more than 390 municipalities across the country have formally opposed the expansion of offshore oil and gas drilling activities, including over 90 along the Pacific coast.

This plan is a massive giveaway to the oil industry, and puts California's coastal communities, economies, and invaluable coastal and ocean resources at risk. As a small business owner who relies on a healthy ocean economy for my business, and as a lifelong Californian who deeply values our beautiful coastline and marine ecosystems, I respectfully request that you remove

the California leases from the Draft Proposed Plan, and protect all other U.S. waters from new oil and gas development.

Sincerely,

Erin Eastwood
Founder and Principal
Blue Spark Strategies, LLC

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