BEAM FURR, Mayor
Board of County Commissioners District 6
115 S. Andrews Avenue • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
(954) 357-7006

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)
Office of Strategic Resources
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166

RE: BOEM's request for information regarding Offshore Drilling and the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program

To Whom It May Concern,

As Mayor of Broward County, I am writing to express our firm opposition to the inclusion of new offshore oil and gas leasing off the coast of Florida in the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

Coastal economies like ours are built on the foundation of clean beaches, healthy ecosystems, and vibrant tourism and marine industries. Broward County's economy generates over $700 million from our beaches each year. In addition, our award-winning beaches are internationally-recognized for their high quality, clean experiences for families of all backgrounds.

Offshore drilling puts all of that at risk. Even the perception of risk from oil and gas activity can negatively affect tourism, property values, and investor confidence. A major spill would have long-lasting consequences for small businesses, fisheries, and the thousands of jobs that rely on a healthy coastal environment.

I believe it is not in the best interest of our community, or our economy, to open our coasts to offshore drilling. The potential short-term benefits to energy companies do not outweigh the long-term threats to coastal livelihoods, local industries, and our natural resources.

I urge the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to take these economic concerns seriously and to prioritize the protection of our coasts in the upcoming leasing program. I look forward to working with our elected officials in Congress to support policies that safeguard our shorelines and reject any efforts to expand offshore oil and gas development.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments. I appreciate your consideration of the interests of coastal businesses and communities like ours.

Thank you,