November 25, 2025

Ms. Kelly Hammerle, Program Manager
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD)
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166-9216

RE: Comments in Opposition of the 11th National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Dear Ms. Hammerle:

On behalf of the Cannery Row Company, we would like to formally and respectfully voice our firm opposition to the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program as it relates to the Pacific OCS Region that includes the Central California Program Area as well as the Southern California and Northern California Program Areas.

In the United States, California consistently ranks as one of the top three most visited states by both Americans and international visitors alike. With one of the largest economies in the world, California is also the state that contributes the most money to the Federal economy, which is far more than it receives from the Federal government. Tourists come to enjoy the gorgeous coastline that California has carefully safeguarded for decades, and unsightly, massive offshore oil rigs would cause great harm to the state's tourism industry and economy. As an unintended consequence of the economic hardship created by the 11th National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program, the state's shrinking economy would ultimately result in it sending less money to the Federal government.

No less concerning to us, a coastal community on California's Central Coast, is the state's hazardous history with harmful oil spills off its coast. The nearby and devastating 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill had long-term and extensive economic effects due to loss of fishing income, loss of recreational facilities, and damage to personal property. It also had a devastating environmental impact on threatened marine life when the region's waters and beaches became coated in oil that endangered the area's tourism industry.

The people of the State of California demanded action after the devastating oil spill in Santa Barbara. Since the state owns and controls the mineral resources within three (3) nautical miles of its coast, the California State Lands Commission quickly halted further leasing of state offshore tracts, and the California legislature codified this ban in 1994 by passing the California Coastal Sanctuary Act. We respectfully request that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management both recognizes and honors the will of the people of California that overwhelmingly oppose offshore oil and gas exploration on its coastline. We also request that the three National Marine Sanctuaries located in the Pacific Ocean in the Central California Program Area, Monterey Bay, Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones, remain protected as was the intent when they were designated under The National Marine Sanctuaries Act that prohibits oil and gas exploration, development, and production to protect the critical resources within these areas.

Sincerely,

Ted Balestreri
Chairman & CEO
Cannery Row Company