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Comment from City of Crestview

Posted by the **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management** on Dec 20, 2025

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Comment

Under the order of the Secretary of the Interior, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has been directed to initiate the directive of "Unleashing American Offshore Energy" which will expose 7 different offshore areas near the state of Florida. Very specifically, my concern is this type of offshore drilling in the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range [EGTTR], which is used by my nearby military installation, Eglin Air Force Base and all branches of the military for critical defense operations and it provides unparalleled air, water surface, and subsurface training opportunities. This range also plays an essential role int water-land transition training and the testing of advanced weapon systems. Eglin contributes over $9 billion annually and supports directly or indirectly over 78,000 jobs.
Oil drilling and exploratory activities are incompatible with the complex and sensitive nature of military training and testing. This alone should be enough to remove the EGTTR from consideration of offshore drilling, but coupled with the financial loss, it simply makes no sense. Thank you for your time.

Crestview Mayor JB Whitten

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