GREATER FORT WALTON BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

U.S. Department of the Interior

Re: 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program – 1st Analysis and Proposal (MAA104000)

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Greater Fort Walton Beach, Florida Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors—and our **4000 Chamber member businesses**-we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the 11th National OCS Oil & Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program and its 1st Analysis and Proposal (MAA104000).

We have strong opposition to any offshore leasing activities in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico/Eastern Gulf of America, particularly those that may impact the Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range (EGTTR).

The EGTTR is an essential national-security asset supporting weapons development, flight testing, unmanned systems, naval operations, and special operations training. Offshore drilling or industrial activity within or near this range would introduce hazards, disrupt mission corridors, interfere with radar and telemetry, and degrade the readiness capabilities the Department of Defense relies upon.

The Eastern Gulf has repeatedly been recognized as incompatible with offshore energy development for these reasons.

Our local economy, including tourism, hospitality, retail, real estate, and thousands of small businesses—depends on a clean, safe, and accessible Gulf environment. Offshore drilling presents unacceptable risks to Northwest Florida's economy, environment, and long-term stability. The Emerald Coast's success is built on pristine waters, national-security missions, and coastal tourism —not offshore oil infrastructure.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that BOEM:

1. Remove the Eastern Gulf from consideration in the Draft Proposed Program and the 1st Analysis and Proposal (MAA104000); and

2. Formally recognize the Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range area as incompatible with offshore leasing due to national-security and economic impacts.

Thank you for considering these comments. Protecting the Eastern Gulf protects both our national defense and the economic well-being of Northwest Florida.

Sincerely,

Gordon King
2025 Chair of Board
CEO Okaloosa Gas

Ted Corcoran
President/CEO

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