DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA
MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

01/20/26

Kelly Hammerle
Bureau of Ocean Management (BOEM)

Dear Bureau of Ocean Energy Management:

In Miami-Dade County we depend on the health of our coastline and our oceans not just for our economy and environment, but for our everyday way of life. As Mayor, my mission to protect our community doesn't stop at the water's edge; the impacts of offshore drilling would be felt far beyond any single shoreline. Let me be clear and unequivocal: oil drilling has no place off Florida's shores.

Our coastal waters are home to vibrant marine ecosystems, world-class beaches, and an economy that supports hundreds of thousands of jobs in tourism, fishing, hospitality, and outdoor recreation. These are jobs and businesses that depend directly on clean water and healthy ecosystems. Offshore drilling endangers all of this at every stage, from seismic blasts that can deafen and disorient marine life to disastrous oil spills that threaten the health of animals and humans alike.

In fact, research highlighted by Oceana shows just how real those risks are. By overlaying proposed drilling areas with known habitats, that work demonstrates how new drilling could impact important species in our local ecosystem, including sea turtles, sawfish, and deep-sea corals. One of the species at risk is the Rice's whale, a critically endangered species, with fewer than 100 individuals remaining on earth. The small area of the Gulf where these whales breed is overlapped by some proposed new drilling sites, putting the species at serious risk if drilling were to move forward. Even the possibility of an accident threatens everything we have worked so hard to protect, and we have seen too many past disasters to ignore the severe and lasting damage that oil spills inflict on coastal communities.

Miami-Dade is also on the front lines of the climate crisis. Expanding offshore drilling, especially as we face rising seas and stronger storms, takes us in the wrong direction at a time when we should be moving faster toward clean and renewable energy.

I am proud to stand with Florida communities, bipartisan leaders, organizations like Oceana, and residents across our state who oppose offshore drilling. I urge federal and state decision-makers to listen to the people of Florida and reject any proposal that endangers our waters, our wildlife, and our economic future.

Miami-Dade County will continue to champion sustainable solutions that protect our coastline and strengthen our resilience for generations to come.

Warmly,

DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA
MAYOR
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