Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 23, 2026

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum,

We write again in our strongest opposition to the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

On June 16, 2025, we, along with over 40 of our Democratic colleagues in the House and Senate, submitted formal comments to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management opposing any new or expanded offshore oil and gas leasing in the Trump administration's proposed updates to the OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program.[1]

On October 30, 2025, following reports of significant expansion of oil and gas leasing, we, along with over 100 of our Democratic Colleagues in the House and Senate, wrote to you to express our strongest opposition to any effort to open new offshore oil and gas leasing in federal waters off the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, in the Arctic Ocean and north Bering Sea off of Alaska, and in the Eastern Gulf.[2]

On December 4, 2025, we, along with 26 of our Democratic Colleagues in the House and Senate from California, wrote specifically in our strongest opposition to the inclusion of the Northern California OCS Planning Area, the Central California OCS Planning Area, and the Southern California OCS Planning area in the DPP for oil and gas leasing.[3] Community members up and down the California coast resoundingly do not want our waters opened to more dangerous drilling.

This is a matter of national consequence for coastal communities across the country, regardless of political affiliation. It puts our economy, national security, and our most vulnerable ecosystems at severe risk.

Sincerely,

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[1] https://democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/download/06/16/2025/2025-06-16-moc-letter-to-doi-re-ocs-oil-and-gas-leasing-program

[2] https://democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/download/finalized-letter-to-potus-and-interior-secretary-burgum-re-offshore-leasing-plans

[3] https://democrats-naturalresources.house.gov/imo/media/doc/sen-padilla-and-hnr-rm-huffman_ca-delegation-letter-to-potus-and-doi-re-offshore-drilling-plans.pdf

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