23 January 2026

Kelly Hammerle
National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program Manager
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD)
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166-9216

RE: Docket ID BOEM–2025-0483

Dear Ms. Hammerle,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the U.S. Department of Interior's 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program.[1]

We, the undersigned Oregon legislators, are writing to express our concern and strong opposition to the proposal of new leases for oil and gas drilling in federal waters, particularly in the Pacific Ocean off the coasts of California and Alaska. We appreciate this office's due diligence in considering the 86,000 comments submitted for the first stage of the program's process last year.[2] The majority of comments submitted from, and on behalf of, Oregonians strongly opposed any oil and gas leases in federal waters off our coast and the Bureau's decision not to open leases off the Oregon coast at this time is greatly appreciated and truly reflects the desire of Oregonians.

We still remain greatly concerned about the proposals to open leases off the coasts of California and Alaska in the Pacific Ocean. Our opposition to new offshore oil and gas drilling represents the majority of Americans. Approximately two-thirds of American voters support protecting our coasts from offshore drilling and believe we should be moving towards renewable energy deployment instead.[3] Our economy, our energy security, and the health of our oceans, shores, and marine mammals are highly dependent on what happens off our coast, not only in the waters directly west of Oregon, but throughout the entire eastern Pacific.

The California Current Ecosystem, a vast stretch of ocean covering the contiguous West Coast, is home to an abundant and biodiverse ecological system that provides jobs, income, and revenue for hundreds of communities reliant on the ocean's resources. It is a complex, interdependent ecosystem and impacts to its environment can be felt hundreds of miles away. On Oregon's coast alone, commercial and recreational fisheries and tourism were responsible for over 30,000 jobs and generated over $3 billion in 2024.[4,5] These industries require clean, healthy beaches and oceans for marine life to grow and thrive. Spills and

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[1] 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program: 1st Analysis, Proposal, and Appendices
[2] BOEM 2025-015
[3] Oceana Offshore Drilling Survey | Ipsos
[4] Travel Impacts Oregon, 2024
[5] Oregon Commercial and Marine Recreational FIshing Industry Economic Activity for Years 2020 and 2021. Addendum 2023.

leaks from offshore drilling have the potential to pollute Oregon waters, cover our beaches, and kill ocean life. Unfortunately, accidents in offshore oil and gas drilling are inevitable.

The 1989 ExxonValdez oil spill in Alaska's Prince William Sound spilled 11 million gallons of crude oil into a very sensitive ecological system.[6] NOAA scientists found impacts from the spill on ocean beaches and in marine life over 25 years after the incident occurred, disrupting generations of fish and mammals and interrupting livelihoods for years.[7] This was only the fifth largest spill in the United States in the last sixty years. The largest, the 2010 Deepwater Horizon catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico, released more than ten times the amount of oil spilled in the ExxonValdez disaster, covering over 42,000 square miles of ocean and over 1,300 miles of coastline.[8] On the West Coast, an equivalent disaster could see an oil slick the entire length of the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington, costing billions of dollars and having a vast ripple effect of economic and ecological damage across the entire eastern Pacific region for years to come.

Now is not the time to shift towards more oil and gas extraction and production. Oil and gas markets are global and highly dependent on other countries and companies for setting production targets and prices. These markets are bound to the economic and foreign policy decisions of other countries, not only ours. Stronger energy security will not come from increased oil and gas drilling, but from increased deployment of renewable energy, which is not reliant on fuel prices for price stability.[9] As renewable energy technologies emerge and evolve, we should invest in opportunities that increase grid reliability and security and decrease our dependence on the global fossil fuels market.

We stand with the many and varied voices who oppose new offshore oil and gas drilling, including fishermen's associations, Tribes, local governments, coastal residents, business alliances, and all Americans who took their time to voice their opposition to this proposal.

We strongly urge reconsideration of the proposal to open new oil and gas leases in our oceans.

Sincerely,

Rep. Mark Gamba
Oregon House District 41

Sen. Sara Gelser Blouin
Oregon Senate District 8

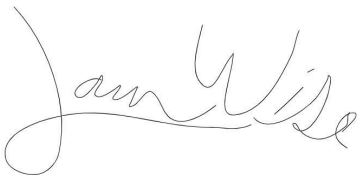
Rep. Lesly Magdalena Munoz
Oregon House District 22

Rep. Ken Helm
Oregon House District 27

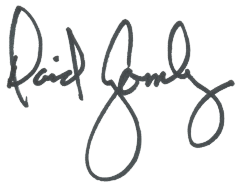
Rep. Dacia Grayber
Oregon House District 28

Sen. Deb Patterson
Oregon Senate District 10

[6] Largest Oil Spills Affecting U.S. Waters Since 1969
[7] 25 years later, scientists still spot traces of oil from Exxon Valdez spill | PBS News
[8] Deepwater Horizon 10 Years Later: 10 Questions
[9] Renewable Energy to Support Energy Security



Rep. Lamar Wise
Oregon House District 48

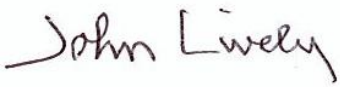


Rep. David Gomberg
Oregon House District 10

Rep. Willy Chotzen
Oregon House District 46

Rep. Tom Andersen
Oregon House District 19

Rep. Nancy Nathanson
Oregon House District 13



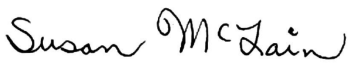
Rep. John Lively
Oregon House District 7

Rep. Jules Walters
Oregon House District 37

Rep. Pam Marsh
Oregon House District 5

Sen. Jeff Golden
Oregon Senate District 3

Rep. Thủy Trần
Oregon House District 45



Rep. Susan McLain
Oregon House District 29