California Central Coast Caucus

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Ms. Kelly Hammerle
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD)
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166-9216
Submitted via: http://www.regulations.gov

RE: Calls for Information and Nominations 11th National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Docket No. BOEM-2026-01568 and Docket No. BOEM 2026-01571

Dear Ms. Hammerle,

We, co-chairs of the California Legislative Central Coast Caucus (CLCCC), strongly urge you to remove all three Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) planning areas from the inclusion in the 11th OCS Leasing Program. We are writing to remind you that California stands firm in our opposition to any expansion of offshore oil drilling near our waters. Any effort to allow more oil drilling will inflict significant and lasting harm on our coastal economies, our environment, and the well-being of millions of Californians.

The CLCCC includes California state legislative representatives from communities across the Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. Collectively, we represent close to 400 miles of coastline, more than two million Californians, and more than $80 billion in economic activity through tourism, agriculture, clean technology, and, most importantly, our natural beauty.

In December, we wrote to Secretary Burgum of the Department of the Interior, urging the Administration to remove California from any plans to expand offshore oil and gas development. We write again to reiterate that California unequivocally opposes any expansion of offshore drilling off our coast.

Our opposition is grounded in lived experience. California's coastal communities have endured some of the most devastating oil spills in modern history. The 1969 Santa Barbara spill, which was a defining moment for the modern environmental movement, devastated local businesses, destroyed coastal habitats, and cost millions of dollars to clean up. The 2015 Refugio spill polluted miles of coastline and harmed fisheries and tourism along the Central Coast. More recently, the 2021 Huntington Beach spill coated wetlands and beaches in crude oil, disrupting ecosystems and local economies. These spills continue to be painful reminders of the long-term environmental, economic, and public health consequences that offshore drilling brings. That lived experience continues to shape California's unwavering commitment to protecting our coastline, marine resources, and coastal economy.

Expanding offshore oil and gas production off California's shores would ignore decades of progress, undermine state environmental protections, and expose our communities to unacceptable risk. California has made clear through state law, regulatory action, and the will of its voters that we are moving toward a clean energy future, not doubling down on the environmental harms of the past.

We respectfully urge the Administration to honor California's authority, recognize the overwhelming opposition of our coastal communities, and formally exclude our state from any plans to expand offshore oil and gas leasing.

Sincerely,

DAWN ADDIS

Co-Chair, Central Coast Caucus
Assemblymember, 30th District

GREGG HART

Co-Chair, Central Coast Caucus
Assemblymember, 37th District