SURF INDUSTRY
Members Association

January 23, 2026

11th National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program
Ms. Kelly Hammerle
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM–LD)
U.S. Department of Interior
45600 Woodland Road,
Sterling, VA 20166-9216

RE: Opposition to New Lease Sales in the Draft Proposed OCS Oil & Gas Leasing Program from the Surf Industry Members Association.

Dear Secretary,

The Surf Industry Members Association (SIMA) writes to express our strong opposition to new offshore oil and gas leasing in U.S. waters. Specifically, we urge the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to cancel plans for new leasing off California, the Gulf of Mexico, Alaska, and the Arctic Ocean as part of the 11th OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

The surf industry is highly dependent on a clean and healthy coastal environment for its business model. Our nation's coastlines and surfing areas provide world-class recreational opportunities for the public and help support enormous economic and social benefits. The U.S. surf industry is part of a larger ocean recreation, tourism, and fisheries economy that generate over $520 billion annually and supports 2.5 million jobs across the United States. These benefits are directly threatened by new offshore oil and gas development

Many of SIMA's members are based in Southern California, which experienced a major oil spill just four years ago. On October 1, 2021, an offshore drilling pipeline operated by Amplify Energy ruptured, releasing an estimated 24,696 gallons of crude oil off Huntington Beach. The oil spill wreaked havoc on the environment and triggered extensive beach closures, impacting businesses and tourism revenue throughout the region. The oil spill was just the latest reminder of the harmful impacts of offshore drilling on our nation's coastal recreation and tourism industries.

In summary, SIMA asks you to protect all U.S. waters including from new oil and gas leasing in the 11th OCS Oil and Gas Program. We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Sincerely,

Vipe Desai
Executive Director