



March 10, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of more than 55,000 coastal businesses and 500,000 fishing families along the Pacific, Atlantic and Florida's Gulf Coasts, we are writing to express our strong support for federal legislation to permanently protect all U.S. waters from offshore oil and gas development. As job creators, we understand that a robust and productive coastal economy is dependent on a clean and healthy ocean; simply put, the threats posed by new offshore drilling are business threats. Prohibiting new offshore drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) will help our nation address the climate emergency while protecting coastal communities and millions of jobs. As demonstrated in the last Congress, there is significant bipartisan support for protecting U.S. coasts from oil and gas drilling.

Since February 2018 the Business Alliance for Protecting the Pacific Coast (BAPPC), Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast (BAPAC) and the Florida Gulf Coast Business Coalition (FGCBC) have served as the leading business voices opposing new and expanded oil and gas development off our coasts. Our coastal economy is inextricably tied to clean coastal waters and beaches, as well as a stable climate. Residents and people from all over the world – over 150 million visitors a year to California alone – frequent our coastline to fish, hike, golf, kayak, surf, wine and dine, and enjoy our beaches. Through activities like tourism, recreation and fishing, our nation's clean coast economy powers 3.3 million jobs and \$250 billion in GDP. This entire economy is threatened by the devastation of an oil spill and the specter of climate change.

Offshore drilling threatens the healthy oceans and clean beaches our coastal economies rely on, and the resulting emissions pose yet another existential threat to our communities. Recent analysis finds permanent offshore drilling protections for unleased federal waters could prevent over 19 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions as well as more than \$720 billion in damages to people, property and the environment. It is time we stop expanding our reliance on fossil fuels and focus on cleaner and more sustainable sources of energy.

Nearly 400 coastal municipalities have formally opposed drilling off their coast along with all coastal governors and thousands of businesses. After all these years, it is time to permanently protect our coastal resources and ocean economies from the risks of offshore drilling.

Our business coalitions also recognize that our nation is facing national crises related to COVID-19, the economy, climate change and racial equity – issues which are also directly impacting BAPPC's membership. Congress is rightfully focused on sweeping policies to address these related crises by investing in a transition to a clean energy economy, striving for environmental justice and cutting the pollution that is driving climate change.

BAPPC, BAPAC and the FGCBC look forward to working with Congress to protect our coastal environment and strengthen our coastal economies. In addition to ending offshore drilling, your leadership is needed to protect clean water, reduce plastic pollution, and promote ocean-climate solutions such as renewable offshore energy if we are to protect our coastal economies, businesses and quality of life.

Sincerely,

Grant Bixby, Advisory Council, Business Alliance for Protecting the Pacific Coast

Tom Kies, President of the Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast

Robin Miller, Chair of the Florida Gulf Coast Business Coalition

