

WALTER B. JONES  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3303

January 25, 2018

Dr. Walter Cruickshank, Director  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Cruickshank:

I am writing in support of the attached request from the Dare County Board of Commissioners for a public scoping meeting on the proposed 2019-2024 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program to be held in Dare County, North Carolina.

The bureau's Draft Proposed Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019-2024 has generated considerable interest in coastal areas across the country, including in my Eastern North Carolina congressional district. I am pleased to see the bureau has scheduled a public meeting in North Carolina to be held in Raleigh on February 26<sup>th</sup>. However, that date and location represent a hardship for citizens who live along the coast of North Carolina, including those in Dare County. For many of these folks, a drive to Raleigh on a weeknight is a 3 or 4 hour trip each way. As a result, I fear that many will not be able to attend.

It is vitally important for the federal government to receive the input of citizens who stand to be most impacted by this proposal. Therefore, I respectfully encourage you to grant the county's request for a public meeting in Dare County.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones  
Member of Congress



## County of Dare

### Office of the Board of Commissioners

P.O. Box 1000 | Manteo, North Carolina 27954 | 252.475.5700

**Robert Woodard**  
*Chairman*

**Wally Overman**  
*Vice Chairman*

**Jack Shea**

**Steve House**

**Rob Ross**

**Jim Tobin**

**Danny Couch**

**Robert L. Outten**  
*County Manager / Attorney*

**Gary Lee Gross**  
*Clerk to the Board*

January 24, 2018

Dr. Walter Cruickshank  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Acting Director  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Cruickshank,

I am writing to you with an important request from the Dare County Board of Commissioners on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. We respectfully ask that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) hold a public hearing in Dare County on the proposed Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019-2024.

The people of Dare County are the ones who will be most directly impacted by the proposed DPP and we believe it is important that our citizens be given an opportunity to formally voice their concerns and offer oral testimony to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

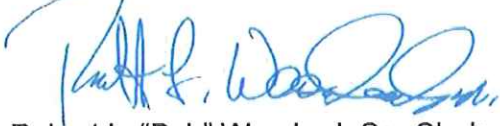
The potential impacts of the DPP are of major concern to our coastal community. Our culture, heritage, and economy are directly linked to the Atlantic Ocean and our people have a vested interest in this natural resource that is the cornerstone of our economy and future.

By conducting a Public Hearing in Dare County your agency will have the opportunity to hear directly from our commercial fishermen, charter boat operators, surfers, beachgoers, business owners, and community leaders who have an informed and unique perspective about the Atlantic coastline that the BOEM should hear firsthand.

Furthermore, we ask that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management extend the March 9 deadline to offer comments on the DPP. We believe a 60-day extension would allow time for a Public Hearing to be scheduled in Dare County. Currently the only meeting BOEM has scheduled in North Carolina will take place in Raleigh, which is hundreds of miles and many hours away from the Outer Banks where the people live who will be the most directly impacted by the DPP.

The Dare County Board of Commissioners will be happy to assist you in any way possible with arranging whatever logistics may be needed for holding a Public Hearing on the Outer Banks. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this request with you and can be reached at any time at 252-216-8240. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. L. Woodard, Sr.", written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Robert L. "Bob" Woodard, Sr., Chairman  
Dare County Board of Commissioners

cc: Congressman Walter Jones