



**REBECCA A. TOOLEY**  
MAYOR

August 10, 2017

Ms. Kelly Hammerle  
National Program Manager, BOEM  
45600 Woodland Road  
Mailstop VAM-LD  
Sterling, VA 20166

Re: Request for Information and Comments on the Preparation of the 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program MAA 104000

Dear Ms. Hammerle:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the preparation of the 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. On behalf of the City of Coconut Creek, I am writing in opposition to the expansion of offshore drilling on the Atlantic Coast.

While the City of Coconut Creek is aware of the renewed interest in additional domestic energy development, I cannot overstate our concern about the impacts of oil and gas drilling on the ecosystem, tourism industry, and economy of our community and all communities along the Atlantic Coast.

The City of Coconut Creek is located in northern Broward County in southeast Florida and has a population of 59,000. We take pride in our environmental consciousness, with a focus on green building techniques, alternative transportation options, and the preservation of green space. In addition, we are known as the "Butterfly Capital of the World" and feature the largest butterfly aviary in the world.

Tourism, particularly ecotourism, is a driver of our economy. In 2016, the state welcomed over 112 million visitors, and Broward County alone hosted over 13 million, bringing \$109 billion into the Florida economy. The City is concerned with the potential effects of offshore drilling on the Atlantic Coast. As you know, offshore drilling brought us the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.

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The City of Coconut Creek cannot support any actions that may bring this type of danger closer to our shores. Additionally, the effects of chronic spills and routine drilling operations can have a negative impact on oceanic live bottom communities, marine animals, and coastal habitats. Chronic exposure to oil and other residues related to oil and gas drilling can negatively impact the life cycle and food chain of and for commercial and recreational fish.

The City of Coconut Creek has submitted comments outlining our opposition to offshore drilling near the Atlantic Coast of Florida both in 2014 during the preparation of the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program, and earlier this year in response to the five applications for geophysical surveys in support of hydrocarbon exploration in the Atlantic Ocean.

We continue to oppose the expansion of offshore drilling on the Atlantic Coast, and appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the preparation of the 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comments on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Rebecca A. Tooley  
Mayor

cc: Governor Rick Scott  
City Commission  
Mary Blasi, City Manager