



August 15, 2017

Timothy Webster
217 West Jones St.
1601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1601
timothy.webster@ncdenr.gov

Dear Mr. Webster:

As Director of NC Interfaith Power & Light, a program of the NC Council of Churches representing 18 denominations and nearly one and a half million people, it is an honor to be in contact.

I am writing to share that Rev. Dr. Jennifer Copeland, Executive Director of the NC Council of Churches submitted the attached letter this week as public comment imploring the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management to deny permitting for offshore oil and gas exploration in the Atlantic Ocean. Also attached is the 2016 standing resolution unanimously approved by the 38 Member Governing Board of the NC Council of Churches opposing offshore drilling and seismic testing.

We are eternally grateful for Governor Cooper's public announcement to protect coastal North Carolina from offshore drilling and seismic airgun blasting, and we are pleased and inspired by the public turnout at the recent DEQ hearings on this most important issue. Thank you for your leadership!

With the current Trump administration intent on expanding dirty and dangerous drilling activities, it is more important than ever that we work together to protect our beloved coast.

Sincerely,

Susannah Tuttle, M.Div
Director, NC Interfaith Power & Light