



# Board of Clallam County Commissioners

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*Jim Jones, Jr. County Administrator*

**MARK OZIAS, District 1, Chair**  
**RANDY JOHNSON, District 2**  
**BILL PEACH, District 3**

File: A72

27 February 2018

Ms. Kelly Hammerle  
National Program Manager  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)  
45600 Woodland Road, Mailstop VAM-LD  
Sterling, VA 20166-9216

RE: 2019 – 2024 Draft Proposed National Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Ms. Hammerle:

As a county with hundreds of miles of marine shoreline, including along both the Pacific coast and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the 2019 – 2024 Draft Proposed National Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

We write today to express our concern with the Program's proposal to open Federal waters off the Washington Coast to drilling for oil and gas. While most of our coastal waters are currently afforded protection from drilling activity due to the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, we stand with the bipartisan group of Governors, Senators and Members of Congress who oppose the Program's push to allow new leases and drilling activities off the Washington coast.

Residents of, and visitors to, Clallam County depend on a healthy coast to support large commercial fisheries, vital scientific research (especially in the arena of Ocean Acidification) and tourism. Members of the Tribal Nations that have inhabited our coastline for millennia depend on a healthy coast to support their Tribal economies and communities.

We oppose the Program because it will adversely impact our local and regional economy while at the same time increasing the risk of a catastrophic environmental catastrophe in one of our nation's most remote, and most pristine, natural areas. The inevitability of the Cascadia earthquake event looming in our future only underscores the dangers of this activity in these locations.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
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Mark Ozias, Chair

  
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Randy Johnson

  
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Bill Peach