

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
United States Senate
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Scott
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

June 30, 2018

Dear Senators Graham and Scott:

As local and state elected officials in South Carolina, we urge you to join us in firmly opposing offshore drilling and dangerous exploration in the Atlantic Ocean.

We have joined Governor Henry McMaster in asking that the State of South Carolina be excluded from the draft 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program, and ask you to do the same by writing to Secretary Zinke opposing offshore drilling and exploration off the coast of South Carolina.

We share our Governor's concern that "massive refineries, gas storage tanks, and other large-scale maintenance and operating facilities are not economically compatible with existing coastal residential and resort development or with our protected sea islands, estuaries and tidal marsh refuges."

Even a cursory look at the oil industry in the Gulf of Mexico clearly demonstrates the onshore infrastructure necessary to support offshore drilling - such as refineries and oil terminals - are wholly incompatible with existing land uses along our beautiful coast.

Our coast is dominated by residential and resort development, wildlife refuges and extensive protected ecosystems. The quality of life we enjoy in coastal South Carolina is a major driver of economic growth opportunities, attracting international manufacturers as well as new residents. In fact, in South Carolina, coastal tourism revenues alone are greater than \$18 billion annually.

In addition, we object to prioritizing the interests of the oil and gas industry above every city and town council along the South Carolina coastline that has voted to oppose seismic testing and offshore drilling.

In South Carolina, 26 municipalities have formally opposed offshore drilling activities off their shores. Most recently, Greenville joined Columbia by becoming the second inland municipality in South Carolina to formally oppose offshore drilling and exploration, including seismic

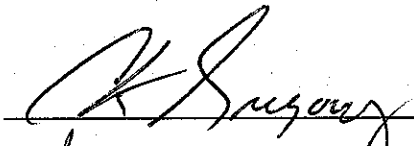
surveys. Greenville also added to the growing national opposition, with over 250 municipalities on both the East and West Coasts opposed to the expansion of oil and gas activities off their shores.

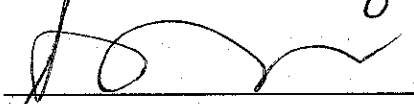
Numerous fishing and tourism interests, including local chambers of commerce, tourism and restaurant associations, all three East Coast Fishery Management Councils, and an alliance representing over 41,000 businesses and 500,000 fishing families have all expressed concern with offshore drilling and exploration, citing threats to marine life, coastal communities and local economies. Finally, the Department of Defense, U.S. Air Force, Florida Defense Support Task Force and NASA have also raised concerns that expanded offshore oil and gas development would threaten their ability to perform critical training and testing activities.

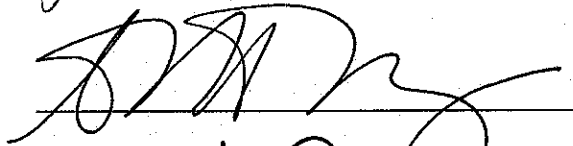
In conclusion, we repeat Governor McMaster's words from his State of the State: "we cannot stop hurricanes, but we can avoid oil spills. We cannot take a chance. We must do whatever it takes to preserve this economic paradise we call 'the beach, the marsh, the coast and the Lowcountry. It is made of gold.'"

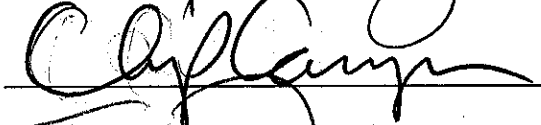
We urge you to write to Secretary Zinke opposing expanded offshore drilling and seismic testing off the coast of South Carolina to protect our coastal economies, and way of life.

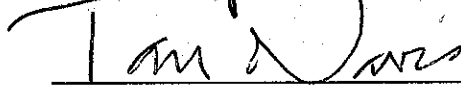
Sincerely,




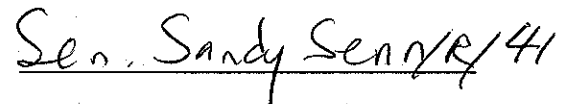


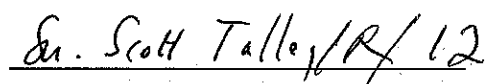


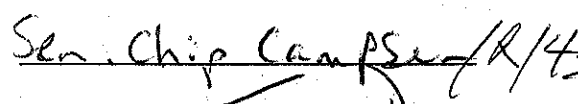


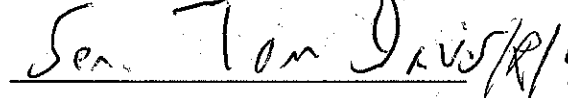












William Hall

Nancy Mann

Walter Venter

[Signature]

Lee Hunt

Greg E. Clay

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Jane S. Darby

[Signature]

Maup Hattley

Timothy M. Goodwin

/s/ Huston Huffman

District # 110 - Rep. Cogswell

99 - Rep Mace/R

120 - Rep Newton/R

118 - Rep Herb Keesman

108 - Rep Hewitt/R

3 - Rep Cleary/R

22 Rep Elliott/R

Town of Edisto Beach - Mayor

Mayor of Greenville

Mayor of North Myrtle Beach

Mayor of Folly Beach

Mayor of Briarcliffe Acres