

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 22, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We the undersigned Members of Congress write to thank you and the Department of the Interior (DOI) for removing the Atlantic Ocean lease sale from the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Program.

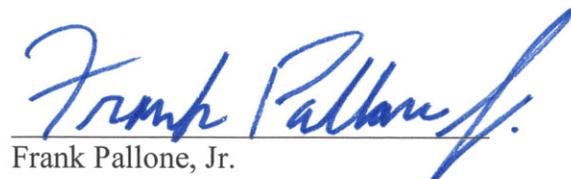
On behalf of our constituents and all those opposed to offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean, we thank you for recognizing that offshore drilling along the East Coast is an unnecessary risk to our coastal economies and incompatible with important existing coastal activities, and we hope that the DOI will take the necessary steps to prevent any offshore drilling in these regions in the future. Nearly 1.4 million jobs and over \$95 billion in gross domestic product are generated by healthy ocean ecosystems from tourism, fisheries, and coastal recreation. Additionally, Atlantic drilling could potentially impede ongoing military and space exploration activities along the coast. Your Administration listened to more than 110 East Coast municipalities, as well as to the concerns of more than 850 federal, state, and local elected officials and 1,100 business interests that have publically opposed offshore development.

Our nation has seen the devastation that comes from offshore drilling. From the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, to the chronic leaks happening on a daily basis from wells and infrastructure in the Gulf of Mexico, to failed infrastructure like that which caused the Santa Barbara disaster, oil spills do not respect state boundaries and pose grave risks to coastal communities and marine life.

We appreciate the Administration's willingness to listen to our constituents and protect the healthy oceans that are our economic drivers and crucial to our coastal ways of life.

Sincerely,


Donald S. Beyer Jr.


Frank Pallone, Jr.

Alan Lowenthal

Alan Lowenthal

Gerald E. Connolly

Gerald E. Connolly

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson

Ted Deutch

Ted Deutch

Jim Langevin

Jim Langevin

Eleanor H. Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Katherine M. Clark

Katherine Clark

Raúl M. Grijalva

Raúl M. Grijalva

Corrine Brown

Corrine Brown

Donald Norcross

Donald Norcross

Donna F. Edwards

Donna F. Edwards

Chris Van Hollen

Chris Van Hollen

G. K. Butterfield

G. K. Butterfield

Lois Frankel

Lois Frankel

Sam Farr

Sam Farr

Alan Grayson

Alan Grayson

Alcee L. Hastings

Alcee L. Hastings

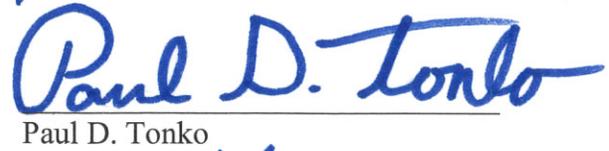
Bonnie Watson Coleman

Bonnie Watson Coleman

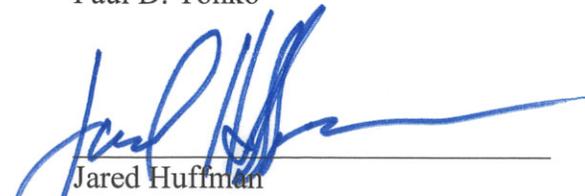

Patrick E. Murphy


John Carney


Seth Moulton


Paul D. Tonko


Matt Cartwright


Jared Huffman

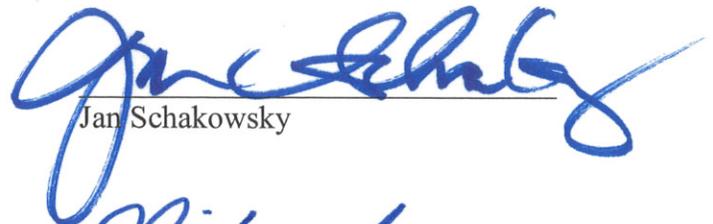

Kathy Castor


Maxine Waters


Barbara Lee


Bill Pascrell, Jr.


Mark Pocan

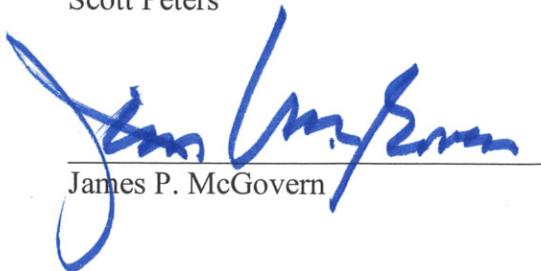

Jan Schakowsky


Mike Quigley

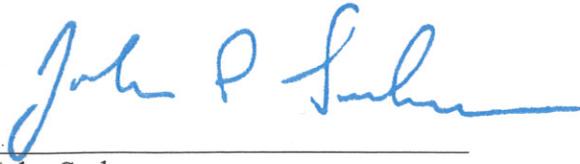

Niki Tsongas


Scott Peters

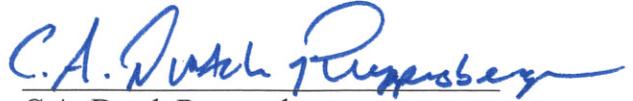

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott


James P. McGovern

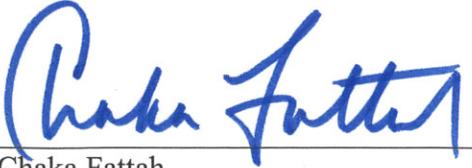

Lois Capps



John Sarbanes



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger



Chaka Fattah



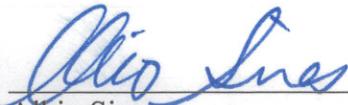
David E. Price



William R. Keating



John Delaney



Albio Sires



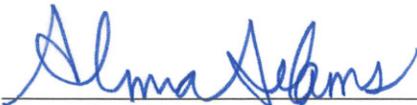
John B. Larson



Elijah E. Cummings



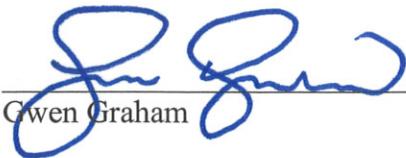
Debbie Wasserman Schultz



Alma S. Adams



Earl Blumenauer



Gwen Graham