

November 7th, 2017

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we write in opposition to the Assessing Strategic Resources Offshore Act (ASTRO) section of H.R. 4239, the SECURE American Energy Act. The bill is an extreme approach to the management of our offshore resources, eliminates or modifies common-sense management tools, and puts at risk our natural environment, coastal communities and economies.

Specifically, the bill would:

- Eliminate the long-standing presidential authority used by Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama under the Antiquities Act to establish marine national monuments.
- Gut core provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) to fast-track seismic airgun surveys and other activities in the ocean that can harm whales, dolphins, and other marine mammals, prevent the permits from requiring almost any kind of mitigation, and require automatic approval of permits if the agency misses a series of tight deadlines.
- Eliminate the long-standing presidential authority under OCSLA section 12(a) to withdraw from oil and gas leasing areas of the OCS, except for those areas within national marine sanctuaries, and revoke existing withdrawals that are not in existing sanctuaries or monuments.
- Nullify common-sense Arctic exploratory drilling safety protections.
- Create perverse incentives to drill in sensitive areas, including in the Atlantic, Gulf and Arctic offshore.

Currently, the Executive Branch has a mandate, through the preparation of OCS leasing programs, to balance economic, social and environmental factors when deciding whether to make offshore areas available for oil and gas leasing. It also has the discretion under OCSLA Section 12(a) to protect sensitive values of the offshore environment from oil and gas activities and to protect important historical and environmental attributes of our marine legacy under the Antiquities Act. The Antiquities Act alone has been used on a bipartisan basis to protect some of our nation's most important natural offshore treasures from Glacier Bay to the Pacific Remote Islands. This bill would eliminate these important safeguards and force government to prioritize the interests of oil and gas companies ahead of protections for our marine and coastal environments, and the people and economies that they sustain.

The existing substantive offshore safety rules and institutional structures were crafted with significant input from industry, have not hampered offshore access or operations, and represent a continued evolution of management of our offshore activities. The bill would roll back these protections and significantly increase risks to offshore workers, the environment and all who rely on our sustainable marine resources and clean coasts for their livelihoods, cultures, nutrition and

recreation. Moreover, ASTRO would exacerbate the already-significant and increasing impacts of climate change on our citizens and environment.

It is hard to understand what legitimate justification can be offered for such a drastic change to existing law. Oil prices continue to be relatively low and stable and are projected to remain so for the foreseeable future. The industry has stockpiled more than 16 million acres of offshore leases, yet is active on less than 4.5 million of those acres. Further, the United States is already producing so much oil that we export it. Consequently, there is no immediate or even long-term need to expose more of our coasts and communities to the hazards and harms of offshore drilling as represented in ASTRO.

In short, ASTRO represents a substantial step backward for our nation's public lands, ocean and energy policies. We oppose this bill, and urge all members of Congress to oppose it as well. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

350.org
350.org Pensacola
350.org South Florida
8AM Ideas, SC
A Brighter Side to ASD
A-Better Pool Service
ACT
Adamscience
AH Environmental
Alaska Wilderness League
Altamaha Riverkeeper, Inc
American Littoral Society
Appalachicola Riverkeeper
Art-2-Die 4
Assateague Coastal Trust
Aurora Wellness Services
B 2 Antiques
B&P, Inc.
Barb and John Obelewitz Watercolors
BFPE
Big Red Physical Performance
Bio-Way Farm
Blue Frontier
Blue Planet Scuba
Bold Alliance
Brunson Law LLC
Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast
California Coastkeeper Alliance
California League of Conservation Voters

Cape May Brewing Company
Cape Publishing, Inc.
Caro Federal Credit Union
Carolina Designs Realty, Inc.
Carolina Regional Insurance, Inc.
Catalyst Miami
Cathy's Custom Jewelry
Center for a Sustainable Coast
Center for American Progress
Center for Biological Diversity
CFROG - Citizens For Responsible Oil and Gas
Charleston Outdoor Adventures LLC
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Chicahawk Brokers
Citizens Protecting the Atlantic Coast
City of Beaufort, South Carolina
City of Fernandina Beach
Clean Water Action
Coastal Carolina Riverwatch
Coastal Color Art
Coastal Conservation League
Coffee Party Savannah
Conservation Lands Foundation
Constituent
Continental Divide
Cook Inletkeeper
Creative Flamingo, LLC
Creech Creations
Crude Accountability
Crystal Coast Waterkeeper
Deedles and Things
Defenders of Wildlife
Dive Services Inc.
Dogwood Alliance
Don't Drill SC Lowcountry
Donald Ross
EarthGood
Earthjustice
Eastern Shore Resident
Elizabeth Brightman
Ellen Kabat, individual
Emerald Coastkeeper, Inc.
Endangered Species Coalition
Environment America
Environment New Jersey
Environmental Caucus, California Democratic Party

Environmental Defense Center
Environmental Entrepreneurs
Environmental Investigation Agency
Environmental Protection Information Center
Environmental Youth Council; St. Augustine Florida
EP
Eventive LLC
Evidence Design
Eyak Preservation Council
florida wildlife federation
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Middle River
Friends of the Weskeag
Full Circle Gardens & Landscapes
GG Dowling Family Partnership, LP
Great Lakes Ocean Coalition
Green Sanctuary Team of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St Augustine, FL
Greenpeace USA
Group for the East End
Gulf Restoration Network
Hackensack Riverkeeper
Hands Across the Sand / Land
Headwater Environmental
Hidenwood Pharmacy Inc
Hispanic Access Foundation
Hoots Contracting
Howell Consulting Group, L.C.
Humane Society Legislative Fund
Indivisible Fallbrook, CA
Indivisible Nova West
Indivisible St Johns, FL
Infotech Strategies
Institute for Ocean Conservation Science
International Fund for Animal Welfare
John Watters Pottery
JOLYN Carolinas
Joseph Rocco Caprio Attorney at Law
Kate Silvia Photography, LLC
KGW, Inc.
Kibou Energy Solutions, LLC
Klamath Forest Alliance
La Jolla Democratic Club
Latrines For Life
League of Conservation Voters
League of Women Voters of Florida
Levin Consultants

LovEnergy, LLC
Lowe Tide
Lynnhaven River NOW
Marine Conservation Institute
Masonry Artisans
Matanzas Riverkeeper
Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy
Mineral Title Associates, LLC
MINT, GA
Moorhead Mediation LLC
National Audubon Society
National Geographic Society, Pristine Seas
National Ocean Protection Coalition
National Parks Conservation Association
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
Nature Adventures
New Florida Majority
New Florida Majority
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment
North Carolina Conservation Network
North Carolina League of Conservation Voters
North County Climate Change Alliance
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
NY/NJ Baykeeper
Ocean Conservation Research
Ocean River Institute
Oceana
Oceana Virginia
Old Dominion University
One Hundred Miles, GA
Operation SPLASH
Outer Banks Internet, Inc.
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
Pacific Environment
Pat Hancock Real Estate, LLC
Patricia Backer
Phoenix Restoration
Private Citizen
Progress Florida
Public Watchdogs
ReThink Energy Florida
RiverRun Media
Sage Sailing Inc DBA Ocean Watersports
Salisbury University
San Diego Coastkeeper

SanDiego350
Savannah Riverkeeper
Savannah Taking Action for Resistance - Issues Committee
Save Our Shores
Seaside Plumbing Inc.
Sellers G Hardee /Sandy Spit Farms
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Calusa Group
Sierra Club, Savannah River Group, Georgia
SODA - Stop Offshore Drilling in the Atlantic
South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce
South Carolina Wildlife Federation
St. Johns Riverkeeper
Student at College of the Albemarle
Suite P. Inc
Sun Realty
Suncoast Waterkeeper
Surfrider Charleston Chapter
Surfrider Foundation
Surfrider Foundation Miami Chapter
Tampa Bay Waterkeeper
TBD Economics, LLC
TerraScapes Environmental
The Accessory Cottage
The Bentley Inn
The Humane Society of the US
The McSwain Co. LLC
The North Carolina Coastal Federation
The Outer Banks Visitors Bureau
The TerraMar Project
The Whale Guitar Project
The Wilderness Society
Tualatin Riverkeepers
Ultima, Ltd.
Untucked, NC
Urbanna Cat Project
Urbanna Therapeutic Maggage
Urbanna Town Marina
Utah Dine Bikeyah
Utter Perfection
VA Distribution
Virginia Conservation Network
Virginia Democracy Forward
Virginia League of Conservation Voters
Vision Power, LLC
Waterkeeper Alliance

WE ACT for Environmental Justice
Whale and Dolphin Conservation
Whiskey Bottle Art
White Oak-New Riverkeeper Alliance
Wild Virginia.org
WILDCOAST
Wilson Ranch
Window Genie of South Jersey
Winyah Rivers Foundation
Witmer Maintenance Services, NC
World House Community Supported Education
World Wildlife Fund