

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 4, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. President and Secretary Burgum:

We write in strong opposition to the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program. We specifically want to express our strongest opposition to the inclusion of the Northern California OCS Planning Area, the Central California OCS Planning Area, and the Southern California OCS Planning Area in the DPP for oil and gas leasing disposition.¹

We stand united with the overwhelming majority of Californians who fundamentally oppose any proposal that would expand offshore drilling and risk our state's invaluable, ecologically unique coast. This proposal, coupled with ongoing efforts to reduce federal staffing and funding for agencies that protect our environment, including for safety and oil spill response, is not only dangerous but outright reckless. As we have repeatedly seen in California and other parts of the country, offshore drilling is a ticking time bomb. Any expansion of offshore drilling in the waters off the coast of California and the spills that would inevitably accompany it would be devastating to the communities we represent.

In April 2025, California officially became the fourth-largest economy in the world, behind only the United States, China, and Germany in global rankings.^{2,3} Our economy is diverse and robust, including sectors such as tourism, recreation, fisheries, deepwater port commerce, and Department of Defense infrastructure. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), California's marine economy alone accounted for \$51.3 billion in GDP and \$26.7 billion in wages in 2021.⁴ The economic well-being of these sectors is dependent upon a healthy and clean coastline. Further industrialization off our coast will inevitably pollute our beaches, spelling disaster for California's economy and detrimentally impacting the rest of the country, which relies on California as an economic engine.

California is all too familiar with the devastating impacts of oil spills. The 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill remains the largest in our state's history—and one of the landmark spills in U.S. history. Immediate damage to birds, intertidal organisms, beaches, and the economy was severe. That experience galvanized Californians and secured an unshakable commitment to protecting

¹ <https://www.boem.gov/oil-gas-energy/national-program/national-ocs-oil-and-gas-leasing-program>

² <https://www.bea.gov/data/gdp/gdp-state>

³ <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/04/23/california-is-now-the-4th-largest-economy-in-the-world/>

⁴ <https://coast.noaa.gov/data/digitalcoast/pdf/marine-economy-california.pdf>

our coastline. The more recent 2015 Refugio oil spill and 2021 Huntington Beach oil spill reinforced our strong opposition to any offshore drilling expansion.

Our Congressional delegation, state leaders, and dozens of California municipalities and Tribes have expressed their opposition through resolutions or comment letters, along with state groups and citizens.⁵ The bipartisan consensus against expanded offshore drilling has been clear and consistent over five decades. This has resulted in current state laws that include a permanent ban on new offshore oil and gas drilling along California's 1,110-mile coastline and a prohibition on new leases for oil and gas infrastructure in state waters that enable increased oil and gas production from federal waters. As stated in the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)'s Request for Information and reinforced by the comments BOEM received from our state, "As a result of Congressional moratoria, subsequent Presidential actions, and consistent opposition by the States of Washington, Oregon, and California to any activity off their coasts, the Pacific OCS has not been included in any National OCS Program since the 1987–1992 Program."⁶⁷

In addition to the economic and environmental reasons for not expanding drilling off California's coasts, our national defense would be better served by keeping additional oil rigs away from our shores. California's waters and coastline are strategically vital, hosting a significant number of military installations, key logistics routes, and special-use airspace. Allowing oil and gas development, or the risk of spills, in areas where our servicemembers routinely operate would undermine military readiness and pose risks to national security.

For these reasons and more, we write in strong opposition to the Proposed Program (DPP) for the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program. We specifically want to express our strongest opposition to the inclusion of the Northern California OCS Planning Area, the Central California OCS Planning Area, and the Southern California OCS Planning Area in the DPP for oil and gas leasing disposition. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, House
Natural Resources Committee

⁵ https://www.environmentaldefensecenter.org/programs_press_type/parent-room/65-california-cities-counties-oppose-trumps-offshore-drilling-plan/

⁶ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/30/2025-07479/request-for-information-and-comments-on-the-preparation-of-the-11th-national-outer-continental-shelf#page-17973>

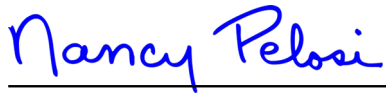
⁷ <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-announces-eleventh-national-outer-continental-shelf-oil-and-gas-leasing>



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



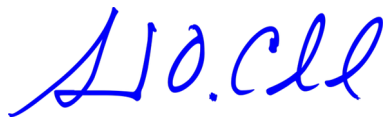
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



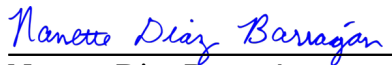
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



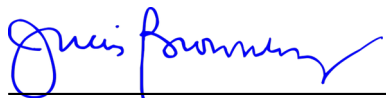
Mike Levin
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove
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Julia Brownley
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Brad Sherman
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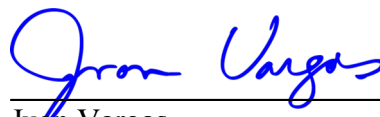
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Lateefah Simon
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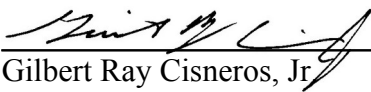
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