

On January 4, 2018, the Trump Administration announced its Draft Proposed National Oil and Gas Leasing Program. This proposal lays out a plan to open 90 percent of our nation's Outer Continental Shelf for potential oil and gas exploration and development, including two oil drilling lease opportunities off of the central coast of California.

If this proposal is enacted, it would have a huge impact on the health of our ocean, our coastal communities, our tourism industry, and our environment. Fortunately, you have the opportunity to share your opinion about this plan.

The Administration is [accepting public comments](#) about the proposal through this Friday, March 9, 2018.

Comments can be made through the [regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) web portal. Navigate to <http://www.regulations.gov> and under the Search tab, in the space provided, type in Docket ID: BOEM-2017-0074 to submit comments and to view other comments. Information on using [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the links under the box entitled "Are you new to this site?"

Comments can also be made by mail, in an envelope labeled "Comments for the 2019-2024 Draft Proposed National Oil and Gas Leasing Program" and mailed (or hand delivered) to Ms. Kelly Hammerle, Chief, National Oil and Gas Leasing Program Development and Coordination Branch, Leasing Division, Office of Strategic Resources, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD), [45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166](#)-9216, telephone [\(703\) 787-1613](#). Written comments may also be hand delivered at a public meeting to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management official in charge.

In Congress, I have cosponsored bills that would prohibit oil and gas exploration and leasing in off of our coast, including the [West Coast Ocean Protection Act](#) and the [California Clean Coast Act](#). I will continue to fight to protect our oceans and coastlines so that our communities, country, and future generations can continue to enjoy the natural beauty of the Central Coast.

While I and my fellow Members of Congress work to protect our oceans through legislation, it is important for our community members to share their thoughts about the proposed program directly with the Trump Administration before the March 9<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jimmy Panetta", with a stylized flourish at the end.

JIMMY PANETTA  
Member of Congress