

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

August 16, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

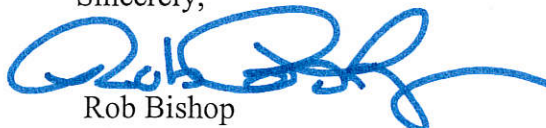
Dear Secretary Zinke:

The United States is in a unique and strong position today because of the abundant oil and natural gas safely produced across the country and off our coasts. Once heavily dependent on foreign sources of energy, our status as an energy superpower not only provides our nation with greater energy security, but also enhances our national security efforts at home and abroad. We applaud your commitment to making the U.S. “energy dominant” and look forward to the development of a new National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. In the development of this program, it is imperative that we fully consider all OCS lands, including those not part of the current 2017-2022 Program, to ensure opportunities are not missed.

The onshore energy renaissance has made the U.S. the number one producer of oil and natural gas in the world. Our adversaries and rivals across the globe are paying attention. We have the opportunity to further secure our global position by encouraging exploration and leasing in new OCS areas and encouraging investment in traditional offshore development areas. Production from the OCS requires vast capital expenditures on long-term projects with long lead times. Just as today’s energy security is the result of production set in motion by decisions made years ago, the decisions on OCS leasing and development facing the Department today will lay the groundwork for our energy and national security for decades. Therefore, it is critical that leasing in the Gulf of Mexico continues and that we look for new energy resources in areas not included in the 2017-2022 Five Year OCS Leasing Program. There is demonstrated interest in the leasing and development of previously excluded areas, and we must consider these areas for development to optimize our nation’s resource potential.

The safe and environmentally responsible development of our offshore resources not only enhances our status as an international energy superpower, but benefits the nation through increased job creation, additional government revenue, and affordable and reliable energy supplies for consumers and manufacturing. The time is now to make the U.S. energy dominant. Expanding access to the available resource potential of the OCS during the development of a new National Leasing Program can solidify our energy superpower position into the future. We look forward to working with the Department on an offshore energy policy that puts America first, creates new jobs and government revenue, and enhances our economy as a whole.

Sincerely,



Rob Bishop
Chairman

Bob With

Steve Scalise

Paul A. Gosar, MD

Dan Young

Tom Graves

Bob Goodlatte

Jefferson

Dan Rostenkowski

Craig Harper

Paul Ryan

J. Morgan Kousser

Austin Scott

Virginia Foxx

Dan Uhlir

Steven Palazzo

Clay Higgins

David Burt

Alan Reid

Mark Walker

Paul Cook

S. Holy

Mark Williams

Did Roungh

Paul W. Allen

Tommy

John

Raymond

Rob Woodall

Richard Hudson

John Price

Barbara Comstock

John

Roll E. Jatta

Michael T. McLaughlin

Bob Dick

Tim Murphy

K. M. King

Macwayne Mullin

Don Bill

Sam Jones

Pat Tihari

Don B. B. B.

Ever Jenkins

Mimi Walters

She Messer

Don B.

Roll E. Jatta

Dein No

Bruce Westerman

Dlem GT Thompson

Ray Boy

John Moorman

Robert Puttman

Pat Mite

Gov Gali

Curran Switzer

Chris Hunt

John R. Cliffe

Mike Ottens

Gary Johnson

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David P. Roe

Buddy Carter

Gene Wagner

Will Hurd

Phil Kelly

Randy H. Webb

Bill Johnson

Bruce Cramer

Andy Biggs

Lynn Jenkins

Doug Allen

Andy Barr

Dan La Hood

Ann Antle

G. Kelly

Joseph Williams

Alex X. Mooney

John

John

Lou Barletta

Jon Baton

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TC-24

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