

**The Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska (Chair)**  
**The Honorable Bobby Jindal, Governor of Louisiana**  
**The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of Texas**  
**The Honorable Phil Bryant, Governor of Mississippi**  
**The Honorable Robert Bentley, Governor of Alabama**  
**The Honorable Nikki Haley, Governor of South Carolina**  
**The Honorable Robert McDonnell, Governor of Virginia**  
**The Honorable Pat McCrory, Governor of North Carolina**



July 17, 2013

The Honorable Jeff Duncan  
116 Cannon House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4003

Dear Representative Duncan:

The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Governors Coalition is a group of coastal state governors who joined together in May 2011 to promote a constructive dialogue on OCS energy-resource planning and development between coastal state governors and federal policy makers. As governors, all Coalition members support policies that encourage expansion of all forms of American energy production – both onshore and offshore.

As required under the 1953 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, federal decisions regarding energy exploration and production on the OCS must be made in consultation with affected states. However, in recent years, the federal government has taken significant actions affecting OCS energy development having had little consultation with the states. We have each joined the Coalition to foster a more productive dialogue between the federal government and the coastal states on OCS resource evaluation, sustainable development, and other offshore energy policy matters.

We believe the Coalition's collective voice has been effective at amplifying support for OCS energy development. Yet, we can do more. During this Congress, legislators will consider several matters that directly and indirectly affect the future of offshore energy development. As our federal representatives, we strongly urge you to act in concert to champion OCS energy and, by effect, the vitality of our coastal and state economies.

In particular, the OCS Governors Coalition supports:

- 1) Advancing revenue sharing for all coastal states. Currently, the Atlantic coast states and Alaska are generally not eligible to share in revenues generated by oil, gas, and renewable energy development in the OCS. These states should be treated equitably with all states.
- 2) Expanding access to OCS frontier areas. The pace of lease sales has slowed. In August 2012, the Department of the Interior (DOI) approved the Five-Year Plan for Oil and Gas Leasing for 2012-2017. In that plan, the Department did not open access to any new frontiers through 2017 – including leases in the Atlantic, despite the fact that a lease sale off Virginia had been included in a previous five-year plan – and postponed all Arctic OCS lease sales by

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one year from the date proposed in the draft plan. As it stands, 85 percent of America's OCS is closed to oil and natural gas exploration.

- 3) Ensuring an efficient and consistent regulatory regime for development of oil, gas, and renewable energy resources in the OCS. Of note, the Coalition urges DOI to release its proposed rule that will govern the allocation of Phase II: Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) revenue-sharing funds to the Gulf Coast states.
- 4) Improving understanding of potential energy resources adjacent to coastal states. In the FY2010 House Interior Appropriations bill, Congress instructed DOI to provide a timeline for its completion of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) that would allow seismic activity to occur in the Atlantic. At the time, DOI responded that a Final PEIS would be issued in April 2012. A final PEIS has yet to be issued.
- 5) Improving management and stewardship of coastal resources related to coastal and ocean activities. Sustainable production of our ocean energy resources remains a high priority for each governor.

The OCS Governors Coalition hopes to cultivate a substantive, ongoing dialogue with Obama Administration officials on the opportunities and challenges facing offshore energy development, including the priorities mentioned in this letter. As the Coalition pursues these efforts, we encourage Congress to develop similar relationships and encourage the administration to pursue decision-making in a transparent, collective manner that values the opinion of state and local leaders. The Coalition has already communicated many of the concerns highlighted in this letter with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. We hope you will do the same.

In closing, feel free to utilize the OCS Governors Coalition as a source of information and advocacy on OCS issues. If you would like more information about the OCS Governors Coalition, please visit our website at [www.ocsgovernors.org](http://www.ocsgovernors.org) or contact Mr. Kip Knudson, the Director of State/Federal Relations for Alaska Governor Sean Parnell, who serves as chair of the Coalition. You may reach Mr. Knudson at 202-624-5859 or via e-mail at [kip.knudson@alaska.gov](mailto:kip.knudson@alaska.gov).

Regards,



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The Honorable Sean Parnell  
Governor of Alaska (Chair)



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The Honorable Bobby Jindal  
Governor of Louisiana

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Governor of South Carolina



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The Honorable Robert McDonnell  
Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia



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The Honorable Pat McCrory  
Governor of North Carolina

cc: South Carolina Congressional Delegation