The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
US Secretary of the Interior  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

As a united group of 227 state legislators representing 17 coastal states, we are writing to you to oppose the Proposed National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019-2024 (Proposed Leasing Program). This proposal seeks to exponentially expand oil and gas exploration, production, and drilling in the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, and Gulf of Mexico, which for many of us, represents the first time in decades our coasts would be exposed to such development. While these oil and gas reserves are technically recoverable, we urge you to consider the repercussions, as you have done so in Florida, to local and regional economies and ecosystems.

We are encouraged by your recent action to remove Florida’s coasts from the Proposed Leasing Program, a decision based on potential threats that offshore drilling would impose on coastal tourism, the recreational economy, and the hundreds of thousands of jobs that depend upon it. Given that one state has been removed from the program, we strongly urge you to grant other states the same opportunity to protect their economy and coastal and marine resources.

Coastal tourism, fisheries, shipping, and defense are not only critical economic drivers in Florida, but are the underpinning of all U.S. coastal states. NOAA reports that coastal communities alone provide 45 percent of our nation’s gross domestic product. Furthermore, California, Oregon, and Washington combined represent the fifth largest economy in the world, a level of prosperity that would not be achieved without their ocean-dependent industries. It is clear that U.S. coastlines are a fundamental part of the nation’s economic activity and would be threatened by the offshore drilling plan.

Offshore exploration, construction, and drilling can damage marine habitats and injure or kill the animals in the surrounding area through direct impact and altering of light and sound environments. The significant impacts associated with offshore oil and gas development pale in comparison to the impacts associate with those of oil spills. Examples from across the country highlight the irreparable damage infringed upon coastal communities and ecosystems due to these accidents. After the Exxon Valdez oil tanker crashed in Alaska’s Prince William Sound in 1989, 11 million gallons of oil spilled

1 NOAA https://toolkit.climate.gov/topics/marine/fisheries-and-coastal-communities  
2 TIME Magazine http://time.com/3748246/exxon-valdez-history/  
4 TIME Magazine http://content.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1986323,00.html
and polluted over 1000 miles of coastline. This spill decimated the environment, killing thousands of salmon, otters, and eagles, as well as a quarter of a million seabirds. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina caused over 40 spills and 8 million gallons of expelled oil. One of the most significant accidents during the hurricane was the Murphy Oil Refinery spill, which released over 1 million gallons of oil, contaminating flood waters and harming over 1000 adjacent homes.

The 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico alone – which resulted in 210 million gallons of oil entering the Gulf and caused billions of dollars in damage to local fisheries and tourism industries – provides ample evidence that accidents can and do happen. As these examples highlight, no amount of planning or resources could fully mitigate the harm done to animals, fisheries, tourism, and the economy in the event of an accident. However, the probability of these spills occurring only increases if U.S. coastlines are opened to offshore drilling under the Proposed Leasing Program.

The Proposed Leasing Program claims that these new oil and gas projects will create jobs and bolster the U.S. economy, but with the risk of spills, and the threats of exploration and production alone, the Program will ultimately hurt coastal economies, and that of their entire states, more than it will benefit them.

Our coastlines serve as a significant economic driver that is entirely dependent upon healthy marine life and coastal ecosystems. Not only will offshore drilling hurt state economies, but this construction would also negatively affect diverse ecosystems and fishing and shipping sectors. Considering this threat to coastal ecosystems and economies, we oppose the Proposed Leasing Program and urge you to at least grant all coastal states with the opportunity to opt out of these leases. We are heartened by your exemption of Florida and hope you take our request into consideration. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Senator Kevin Ranker
Washington

Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti
New York

Representative John Ager
North Carolina

Senator Ben Allen
California

Representative Sherry Appleton
Washington

Representative David Arconti
Connecticut

Senator Kevin de León
California

Senator Ricardo Lara
California

Senator Susan Lee
Maryland

Representative Chris Lee
Hawaii

Representative Matthew Lesser
Connecticut

Delegate Robbyn Lewis
Maryland
Representative John Autry
North Carolina

Representative Phil Barnhart
Oregon

Chairman Kumar Barve
Maryland

Representative Paul Baumbach
Delaware

Representative Mary Belk
North Carolina

Senator Shenna Bellows
Maine

Assemblyman Daniel Benson
New Jersey

Representative Jennifer Benson
Massachusetts

Representative Lori Berman
Florida

Representative Seth Berry
Maine

Senator Andy Billig
Washington

Representative Deborah Boone
Oregon

Delegate Jennifer Boysko
Virginia

Senator Cathy Breen
Maine

Representative Cecil Brockman
North Carolina

Representative Robert Brown
South Carolina

Assemblyman David Buchwald
New York

Representative Deb Butler
North Carolina

Senator Jeanine Calkin
Rhode Island

Senator Lynwood Lewis
Virginia

Delegate Karen Lewis Young
Maryland

Delegate Brooke Lierman
Maryland

Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton
New York

Representative Matthew LoPresti
Hawaii

Representative Nicole Lowen
Hawaii

Delegate Eric Luedtke
Maryland

Representative Nicole Macri
Washington

Senator Richard Madaleno, Jr.
Maryland

Representative Sheri Malstrom
Oregon

Senator James Manning
Oregon

Senator David Marsden
Virginia

Representative Pam Marsh
Oregon

Representative Grier Martin
North Carolina

Assemblymember Shelley Mayer
New York

Senator John McCoy
Washington

Assemblyman John McKeon
New Jersey

Representative Susan McLain
Oregon

Senator Jeremy McPike
Virginia
Senator Reuven Carlyle
Washington
Delegate Al Carr
Maryland
Representative Lauren Carson
Rhode Island
Senator Stanley Chang
Hawaii
Representative Mike Chapman
Washington
Senator Maralyn Chase
Washington
Representative Eileen Cody
Washington
Assemblyman Herb Conway
New Jersey
Representative Janice Cooper
Maine
Representative Richard Creagan
Hawaii
Senator Julian Cyr
Massachusetts
Senator Jeannie Dameille
Washington
Representative Matthea Daughrty
Maine
Senator Michael Dembrow
Oregon
Representative Michael Devin
Maine
Senator Manka Dhingra
Washington
Senator Patrick Diegnan
New Jersey
Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
New York
Representative Laurie Dolan
Washington
Senator Rebecca Millett
Maine
Senator Dave Miramant
Maine
Representative Howard Moffet
New Hampshire
Senator William Monning
California
Delegate David Moon
Maryland
Representative Marcia Morey
North Carolina
Delegate Dan Morhaim
Maryland
Senator Sharon Nelson
Washington
Representative Rob Nosse
Oregon
Assistant Speaker Felix Ortiz
New York
Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self
Washington
Representative Tina Orwell
Washington
Representative Ed Osienski
Delaware
Assemblyman Anthony Palumbo
New York
Senator Guy Palumbo
Washington
Representative Jennifer Parker
Maine
Retired Senator Fran Pavley
California
Representative Sarah Peake
Washington
Senator Jamie Pederson
Washington
Representative Susan Donovan 
Rhode Island

Representative Michelle DuBois 
Massachusetts

Assemblymember Steve Englebright 
New York

Representative Paul Evans 
Oregon

Representative Julie Fahey 
Oregon

Representative Jean Farmer-Butterfield 
North Carolina

Representative Richard Farnsworth 
Maine

Representative Jessica Fay 
Maine

Representative Ryan Fecteau 
Maine

Representative Dylan Fernandes 
Massachusetts

Representative Jake Fey 
Washington

Representative Susan Fisher 
North Carolina

Representative Joe Fitzgibbon 
Washington

Delegate Robert Flanagan 
Maryland

Representative Bob Foley 
Maine

Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo 
Maryland

Senator Lew Frederick 
Oregon

Assemblymember Laura Friedman 
California

Senator David Frockt 
Washington

Representative Strom Peterson 
Washington

Representative Teresa Pierce 
Maine

Senator Paul Pinsky 
Maryland

Delegate Andrew Platt 
Maryland

Delegate Kenneth Plum 
Virginia

Representative Gerry Pollet 
Washington

Senator Nicole Poore 
Delaware

Representative Karin Power 
Oregon

Representative Denise Provost 
Massachusetts

Senator Floyd Prozanski 
Oregon

Representative Ellen Read 
New Hampshire

Delegate Kirill Reznik 
Maryland

Representative William Richardson 
North Carolina

Senator Chuck Riley 
Oregon

Representative June Robinson 
Washington

Senator Christine Rolfes 
Washington

Senator Jim Rosapepe 
Maryland

Senator Russell Ruderman 
Hawaii

Honorable Rick Russman 
New Hampshire
Delegate Barbara Frush
Maryland

Mike Gabbard
Hawaii

Representative Cedric Gates
Hawaii

Speaker Sara Gideon
Maine

Delegate Jim Gilchrist
Maryland

Representative Rosa Gill
North Carolina

Senator Gayle Goldin
Rhode Island

Representative David Gomberg
Oregon

Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
California

Delegate Wendy Gooditis
Virginia

Representative Roger Goodman
Washington

Representative Chris Gorsek
Oregon

Assemblymember Richard Gottfried
New York

Representative Mia Gregerson
Washington

Representative Marty Grohman
Maine

Assemblymember Reed Gusciora
New Jersey

Representative Patricia Haddad
Massachusetts

Representative Jim Handy
Maine

Representative Edward Hanes
North Carolina

Representative Cindy Ryu
Washington

Representative Andrea Salinas
Oregon

Senator Rebecca Saldana
Washington

Senator Adam Satchell
Rhode Island

Representative John Schneck
Maine

Representative Mike Sells
Washington

Representative Tana Senn
Washington

Representative Bryon Short
Delaware

Senator Troy Singleton
New Jersey

Senator Bob Smith
New Jersey

Senator Will Smith
Maryland

Representative Frank Smizik
Massachusetts

Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez
Maryland

Representative Janeen Sollman
Oregon

Representative Joseph Solomon Jr.
Rhode Island

Representative Derek Stanford
Washington

Delegate Dana Stein
Maryland

Senator Steiner Hayward
Oregon

Senator Henry Stern
California
Representative Pricey Harrison  
North Carolina

Senator Bob Hasegawa  
Washington

Delegate Anne Healey  
Maryland

Representative Jonathan Hecht  
Massachusetts

Representative Debra Heffernan  
Delaware

Senator Robert Hertzberg  
California

Representative Natalie Higgins  
Massachusetts

Representative Paul Holvey  
Oregon

Delegate Patrick Hope  
Virginia

Representative Brian Hubbell  
Maine

Senator Sam Hunt  
Washington

Representative Patty Hymanson  
Maine

Representative Verla Insko  
North Carolina

Representative Kristin Jacobs  
Florida

Representative Evan Jenne  
Florida

Representative Aaron Johanson  
Hawaii

Representative Erik Jorgensen  
Maine

Representative Ruth Kagi  
Washington

Senator Karen Keiser  
Washington

Assemblymember Mark Stone  
California

Senator Cynthia Stone Creem  
Massachusetts

Delegate Rip Sullivan  
Virginia

Senator Scott Surovell  
Virginia

Representative Roy Takumi  
Hawaii

Representative Gael Tarleton  
Washington

Representative Maureen Terry  
Maine

Representative Steve Tharinger  
Washington

Senator Laura Thielen  
Hawaii

Assemblyman Fred Thiele  
New York

Representative Cynthia Thielen  
Hawaii

Representative Dawn Thomas  
Washington

Assemblymember Phil Ting  
California

Representative Ryan Tipping  
Maine

Representative Carlos Tobon  
Rhode Island

Representative Brian Turner  
North Carolina

Representative Javier Valdez  
Washington

Senator Terry Van Duyn  
North Carolina

Senator Eloise Vitelli  
Maine
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speaker Pro Tempore and Rep Brian Kennedy</td>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Christine Kilduff</td>
<td>Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Shelley Klobo</td>
<td>Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate Kaye Kory</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative John Kowalko</td>
<td>Delaware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate Ben Kramer</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senator Patty Kuderer</td>
<td>Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Walter Kumiega</td>
<td>Maine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate Stephen Lafferty</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate Clarence Lam</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate Jeff Waldstreicher</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Charlotte Warren</td>
<td>Maine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senator David Watters</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate Vivian Watts</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senator Bob Wieckowski</td>
<td>California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Kimberly Williams</td>
<td>Delaware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Mike Woodard</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Sharon Wylie</td>
<td>Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate Pat Young</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Stanley Paige Zeigler</td>
<td>Maine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senator Craig Zucker</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>