

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 18, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

As Members of the California congressional delegation, we write in strong opposition to the Department of the Interior's National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for 2019 to 2024 and its inclusion of lease sales in the Pacific. We urge you to immediately withdraw the DPP for 2019 to 2024.

On January 9, you announced that you would remove Florida's coasts from consideration in the 2019 to 2024 DPP. In doing so you noted that Florida's coasts "are highly reliant on tourism as an economic driver" and that you believed it was important to take into account "the local and state voice." Using that rationale, California must also be removed from the DPP, given the high level of local opposition and the reliance of California communities on tourism.

California coasts are highly reliant on tourism as an economic driver. In fact, California's ocean economy and the sector dependent on tourism and recreation are both larger than those of Florida. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in 2014, the ocean economy contributed \$41.9 billion to California's gross domestic product, nearly half of which came from the tourism and recreation industries. California's ocean economy is unique and so important that in 2015 the federal government did an entire study showing the importance of it not just to California, but to our nation.

California and other states also cannot afford to allow expanded offshore drilling that will threaten the vitality of these industries. In 1969, we saw the Santa Barbara oil spill spew approximately 4.2 million gallons of oil into the ocean, devastating recreation, property, the fishing industry, and wildlife. If we open the Pacific to additional leases, it is not a question of if, but when the next disaster will occur.

You noted that your decision to exclude Florida was due in part to the concerns of Florida government officials. We agree that this decision must consider "local and state voices," but this sudden exemption to Florida, without any action to address the previous opposition from the state of California, makes a mockery of the requirements of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands

Act. Last week, the governors of California, Oregon and Washington again issued a statement expressing our states' firm opposition to the expansion of oil and gas leases in the Pacific. Additionally, dozens of Members of Congress from California, Oregon, and Washington sent you a letter in August 2017 conveying the same position. Under your rationale, California and other similarly situated states must also be exempted from the Five-Year Plan. Otherwise, this appears to be a purely politically-motivated decision.

Exempting only Florida from the DPP lacks rational basis and is arbitrary and capricious. It is unlikely that there exists a legal standard that would allow you to exempt Florida but not California under the rationale you already set forth and put in writing.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Salud O. Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress



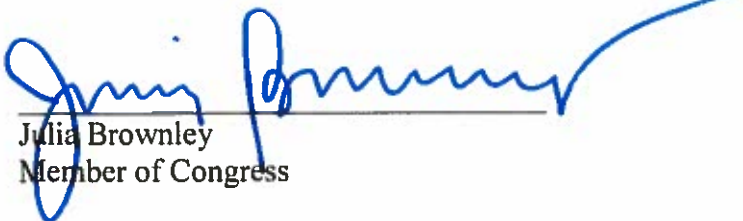
Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa  
Member of Congress



Susan Davis  
Member of Congress



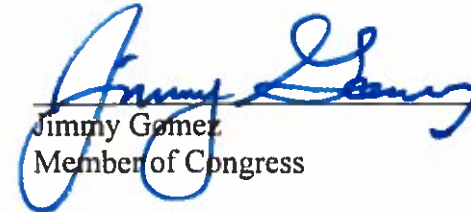
Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



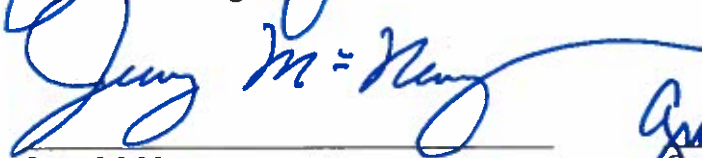
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



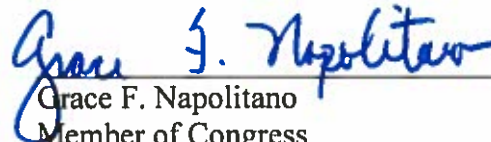
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



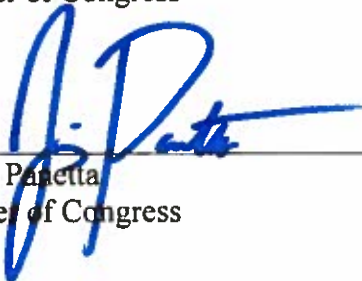
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress




Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



Lucille Roybal-Allard  
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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



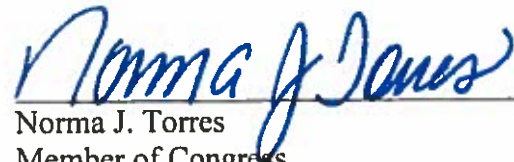
Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres  
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress