

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

August 17, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Zinke,

We are writing in response to the initial Request for Information for the newly proposed Five-Year National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (Five-Year Program) consistent with the Department of Interior Order 3350. As Members of Congress with an interest in the health and economic vitality of the Pacific Ocean off the California, Oregon, and Washington coasts, we ask to exclude any new oil and gas lease sales off the Pacific coast from the Five-Year Program.

Under the previously finalized 2017-2022 Five-Year Program, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) determined that lease sales in the Pacific would not be consistent with the long-standing interests of Pacific coast states. BOEM did not include any new leases off the Pacific Ocean in the final Program.

The Pacific Ocean off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington include sensitive and vital ecosystems that support fruitful fishing and tourism industries in all three states. California's coastal economy is responsible for generating \$662 billion in wages and \$1.7 trillion in gross domestic product (GDP). Similarly, in Oregon and Washington, ocean-dependent tourism and recreation are substantial drivers of the states' economies and generate more than \$16 billion in economic activity and hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Additionally, the Pacific Ocean provides habitats for a wide variety of endangered and threatened species, including marine mammals, seabirds, turtles, and fish. Significant federal, state, and local resources have been expended in an effort to protect these species, improve the health of state fisheries, and ensure the continued economic vitality of coastal areas through recreation and tourism. The Pacific coastline is far too important to the people, environment, and economies of California, Oregon, and Washington to put it at risk through any new offshore oil and gas drilling.

The Pacific coast has great potential for wind, tidal, and wave energy development. Instead of new offshore drilling leases we should invest in alternative renewable energy development efforts. We commend BOEM for its effort to lease and permit offshore wind energy projects along the coasts of all three states, and we believe that BOEM should maintain their focus on these clean methods of generating energy from the ocean. The development of alternative energy resources in the Pacific will support jobs, generate revenues, and provide much

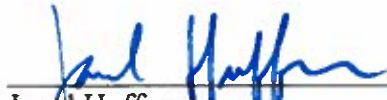
needed clean, sustainable energy without threatening existing jobs and economic activity in the Pacific. Advances in tidal and marine hydrokinetic power may similarly provide opportunities to harvest the energy potential of our oceans.

As you conduct a review of our nation's existing oil and gas leases, we again strongly urge you to reject proposals to open the Pacific Ocean off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington to new offshore drilling and exploration. We look forward to working with you during your tenure as Secretary, and thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,



Nanette D. Barragán  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



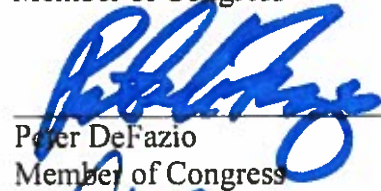
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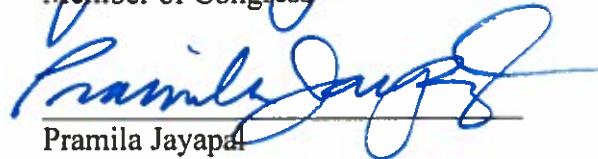
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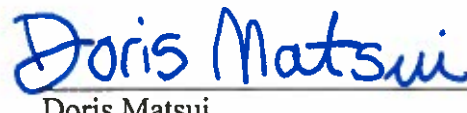
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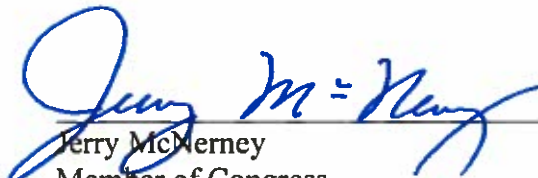
John Garamendi  
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Mike Thompson  
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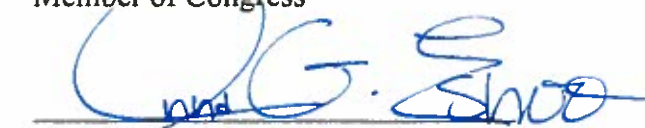
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Jimmy Panetta  
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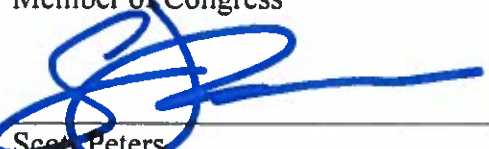
  
Salud O. Carbajal  
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Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress

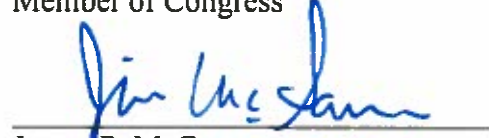
  
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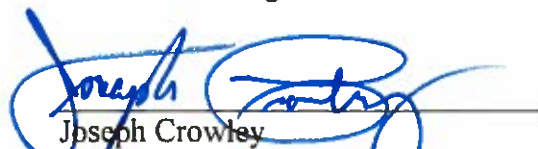
  
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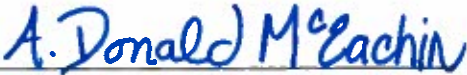
  
John Yarmuth  
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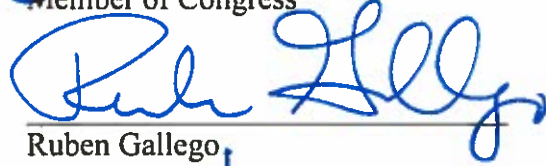
Jared Polis  
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A. Donald McEachin  
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James Langevin  
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Ruben Gallego  
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Colleen Hanabusa  
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