



December 1, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington DC 20050

Subject: Request for Support for Protections of Federal Waters off the California Coast

Dear Mr. President:

We write to request that you exercise your prerogatives under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act ("OCSLA") to permanently protect federal waters off the coast of California from new offshore oil and gas leasing. This action is necessary to ensure California is not threatened by increased offshore oil and gas drilling in the future.

The state of California has one of the most spectacular coastal areas in the nation; residents and visitors from around the world enjoy the recreational, scenic, and spiritual bounty of our spectacular shores. And ocean dependent industries such as commercial and recreational fishing contribute substantially to our state and sustain our coastal communities.

A sizeable spill off our coast would have a devastating impact on our public health and safety, local and state economies, and our environment. Expanded offshore oil and gas drilling also undermines the important strides we have made both as a state and as a nation to address climate change and promote a clean energy economy.

California law generally prohibits new oil and gas leasing in state waters in order to help protect the marine environment and its vitally important resources. Federal waters off our beautiful coast deserve the same protections.

Section 12(a) of OCSLA vests the President with the authority to ensure those protections. Specifically, Section 12(a) allows you to "withdraw from disposition any of the unleased lands of the outer Continental Shelf." Numerous presidents have used this authority to protect environmentally sensitive areas from new offshore oil and gas leasing, including the coast of California. You have previously used this authority to withdraw certain areas in the Arctic Ocean from availability for oil and gas leasing.

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We are pleased to see that new leases on the Pacific OCS are not included in the 2017 to 2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program recently released by the U.S. Department of the Interior. However, action under Section 12(a) of OCSLA is necessary to ensure future expanded offshore drilling is prohibited.

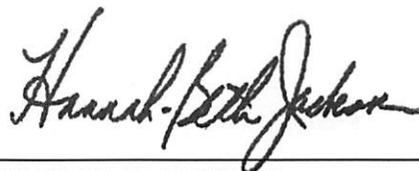
Thank you for considering action on this important and urgent matter.

Sincerely,



KEVIN DE LEÓN

President Pro Tempore
Twenty-Fourth Senate District



HANNAH-BETH JACKSON

Chair, Committee on Judiciary
Nineteenth Senate District



MIKE MCGUIRE

Second Senate District



BILL DODD

Senator-Elect Third Senate District



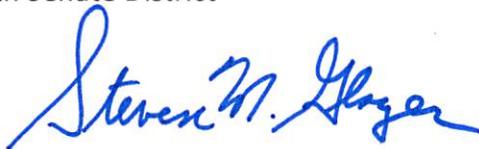
CATHLEEN GALGIANI

Fifth Senate District



RICHARD PAN

Sixth Senate District



STEVEN GLAZER

Seventh Senate District



NANCY SKINNER

Senator-Elect Ninth Senate District



BOB WIECKOWSKI

Tenth Senate District



SCOTT WIENER

Senator-Elect Eleventh Senate
District



JERRY HILL
Thirteenth Senate District



WILLIAM W. MONNING
Seventeenth Senate District



CONNIE M. LEYVA
Twentieth Senate District



ANTHONY PORTANTINO
Senator-Elect Twenty-Fifth Senate District



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Senator-Elect Twenty-Seventh Senate District



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Thirty-Two Senate District



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Twenty-Second Senate District



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Twenty-Sixth Senate District



JOSH NEWMAN
Senator-Elect Twenty-Ninth Senate District



RICHARD D. ROTH
Thirty-First Senate District

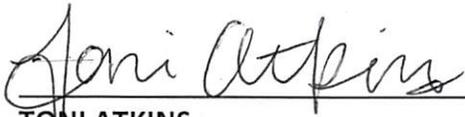


RICARDO LARA
Thirty-Three Senate District

President Barack Obama

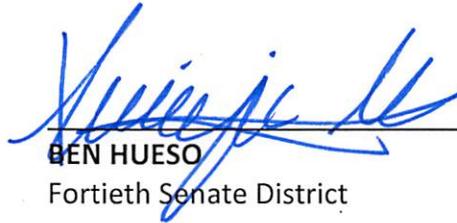
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TONI ATKINS

Senator-Elect Thirty-Ninth Senate
District



BEN HUESO

Fortieth Senate District