



CALIFORNIA



OREGON



WASHINGTON

August 17, 2017

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

Subject: Request for Information and Comments on Preparation of 2019-2024 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As Governors of California, Oregon, and Washington, we write to express our strong opposition to the inclusion of any new proposed oil and gas lease sale off our shared coast in the 2019-2024 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

Together, our three states represent the fifth largest economy in the world. Our ocean-dependent industries contribute billions of dollars annually to our region and sustain our coastal communities. Residents and visitors from around the world enjoy the recreation, scenic, and spiritual bounty of our spectacular shores.

While new technology reduces the risk of a catastrophic event such as the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, it does not eliminate the risk of a catastrophic accident, as was made all too clear by the 2010 Deep Water Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico. A sizeable spill anywhere along our shared coast would have a devastating impact on our population, recreation, natural resources, and our ocean and coastal-dependent economies.

In addition, the people of our states understand that the looming catastrophe of unabated climate change requires our nation to move away from unfettered fossil fuel consumption and towards a more prosperous, sustainable and secure clean energy economy. In response to President Trump's announcement of his intention to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement, our states played a leadership role in establishing the U.S. Climate Alliance – a coalition of states committed to achieving the U.S. Government's prior goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions 26-28 percent from 2005 levels, by 2025. Of equal importance is the commitment of our three states, together with British Columbia, to a comprehensive and far-reaching strategy to combat climate change and promote a clean energy economy -

the 2016 Pacific Coast Climate Leadership Action Plan. Among other things, Oregon, California, Washington, and British Columbia have worked together on energy infrastructure procurement and investment decisions that will expand access to clean energy sources across the region. Each of our states are continuing to take aggressive action, individually and collectively, to promote clean energy technologies, alternative fuels and electric vehicles. Instead of opting to drill for new oil along our coast, we encourage the federal government to pursue energy policies that embrace clean energy and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

There should be no ambiguity about where the states of California, Oregon, and Washington stand on the issue of new oil and gas leasing off our West Coast – we oppose it. We therefore strongly urge you to exclude any proposed oil and gas lease sales off our shared coast in the 2019-24 OCS Leasing Program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Edmund G. Brown, Governor
State of California



Kate Brown, Governor
State of Oregon



Jay Inslee, Governor
State of Washington