

[DATE]

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of [X] businesses, we are writing to express our strong support for a moratorium on new offshore drilling. As the House considers the FY 2020 Interior- Environment funding bill, we urge you to support all efforts to block expanded offshore drilling through the amendment process.

**[Insert paragraph introducing your business alliance, and the types of businesses you represent.]** Healthy beaches and oil-free coastlines mean growth for our businesses and a sustained livelihood for our employees and customers.

Despite encouraging news that plans to drill off our coast may have been delayed, President Trump's proposal to open over 90 percent of the Outer Continental Shelf to drilling still stands and could resume at any time. **Congressional action is needed, and we are counting on your support to block expanded offshore drilling.**

As you know, there is a long-standing congressional precedent for protecting our coasts from offshore drilling through the Interior-Environment annual funding bill. Beginning in 1982, Congress, for almost 30 years, restricted spending on Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing and drilling activities through moratoria renewed annually in the department's funding bill. We understand that amendments could be voted on very soon and we respectfully urge your strong support of efforts to protect our coast via the amendment process.

**[Insert line(s) about how offshore drilling will threaten your region's tourism/military economy.]** Opening the Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore drilling is a permanent decision with real consequences. The oil industry has the potential to dismantle our economies, drive out business and change our ways of life. We know that offshore drilling leads to oil spills, and regardless of size, oil spills harm our fisheries, tourism industries and clean coast economies overall.

This bipartisan approach is our best chance to protect our coast from offshore drilling this year. Please support all efforts to reinstate a moratorium and ensure that amendments to block expanded offshore drilling activities come to a vote as the House considers the Interior-Environment appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

**[Business Alliance]**

CC:

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-107, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-307, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2007 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim McGovern  
Chairman  
Committee on Rules  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-312, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515