



**THE DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE**  
OKALOOSA, SANTA ROSA AND WALTON COUNTIES

June 21, 2019

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 the Defense Support Initiatives Committee, we are submitting our strong support for a moratorium on proposed new offshore drilling. The tri-county DSI is a military issues advocacy group comprised of approximately 25 community and business leaders, including retired military personnel, defense contractors and representation from the seven Military Affairs Committees from Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties surrounding Eglin AFB. As the House considers the FY 2020 Interior-Environment funding bill, we respectfully urge you to support all efforts to block expanded offshore drilling through the amendment process.

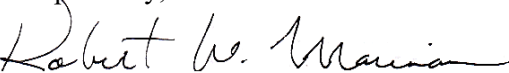
In addition to healthy beaches and oil-free coastlines, military readiness and superiority is at risk. The eastern Gulf of Mexico houses the Eglin Test & Training Range (EGTTR). As weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, test and training ranges take on even greater importance in national security. The EGTTR is a unique resource offering tremendous capabilities for joint test and training exercises—extending 180,000 square miles from Key West to northwest Florida. Due to its expansive size providing for simultaneous maritime, air and land training exercises, the EGTTR is an integral part of DoD's Training Resource Strategy. This military test and training range provides for growth of our businesses, a sustained livelihood, and our nation's security.

Despite encouraging news that plans to drill off Florida's 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.**

Opening the Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore drilling is a permanent decision with real consequences. Oil drilling and related activities are not compatible with military test and training activities. Eglin AFB alone provides a \$10B annual economic impact and provides over 72,000 jobs; Northwest Florida exceeds \$22B. The oil industry has the potential to dismantle our economies, threaten our military capabilities and drive out defense contractor businesses.

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.

Respectfully,

  
Robert Marinan, Lt Colonel USAF (ret.)  
Chairman

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CC:

The Honorable Matt Gaetz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1720 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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  
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The Honorable Betty McCollum  
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Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
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The Honorable Jim McGovern  
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