

AMERICA'S ENERGY FORUM

December 19, 2013

Mr. Tommy Beaudreau
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Office of Public Affairs
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Beaudreau,

The downturn in the economy negatively impacted the economic situation in our region, and we are still in recovery. As coastal elected officials we are also addressing other serious issues such as flood insurance, beach re-nourishment and diversifying our economies so we can grow vibrant, economically healthy communities. One potential opportunity to create jobs and revenue for our communities is offshore oil and natural gas exploration.

Studies show that development of offshore resources could create a significant number of well paying jobs for our communities as well as generate revenue for critical infrastructure projects. However, the seismic data, which could determine the offshore potential, is more than 30 years old and needs to be updated so that everyone involved can make sound business and policy decisions. Therefore, we are writing to urge you to move the process forward to approve permits for seismic studies so that we can begin the long overdue process of improving our energy and economic security.

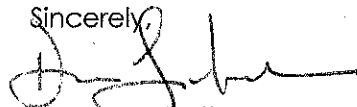
Furthermore, we understand that companies are prohibited from conducting any exploration and production activities in the Atlantic because the Atlantic Offshore Continental Shelf is not in the government's current "Five-Year Program for 2012 to 2017." Its exclusion further stymies jobs and revenue growth opportunities for our communities. Thus, we are also asking you to allow Atlantic OCS leasing before 2017.

We are all strong and vocal supporters of protecting our environment and will work with all parties involved to ensure that both our shoreline and marine life are protected during the seismic testing process. However, many experts and studies have shown that this testing can be conducted in an environmentally safe manner. Seismic analyses are highly regulated and carefully managed by the operator to avoid impacting marine mammals, with on-board personnel who specialize in wildlife protection. Furthermore, allowing the long-awaited testing to go forward, coupled with an inclusion of the Atlantic in the next five-year program, will provide us with the needed information to better assess the potential revenue and jobs impact that offshore exploration will bring to our respective states and communities.

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We appreciate your consideration and once again ask BOEM to expeditiously approve seismic studies and allow leasing in the Atlantic OCS before 2017. We must begin generating jobs and revenue opportunities to rejuvenate the economies under our jurisdictions.

Sincerely,



Dean Lambeth
Mayor
Town of Kure Beach, NC

I am pleased to add my name to the above letter:

cc:

Barack Obama, President of the United States

Denis McDonough, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff

Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior

Walter Cruickshank, Ph.D., Deputy Director, BOEM