

August 15, 2014

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Comments on Preparation of the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Docket ID: BOEM-2014-0059-0001

Dear Ms. Hammerle and Mr. Bennett,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the preparation of the 2017-2022 OCS Five Year Program.

We, the undersigned, oppose the opening of the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic coasts to offshore oil and gas exploration, leasing, and drilling. Drilling off our coast is unnecessary and dangerous, bringing much more risk than reward to the people living in the areas most likely to be affected.

Drilling off the coast of the Mid- and South Atlantic is unnecessary because we have an all-time high supply of natural gas from onshore sources and also because nearly three-quarters of already-leased offshore areas are sitting unused. Given these facts, it does not make sense to open more planning areas, particularly in places that have never hosted commercial drilling operations before.

Meanwhile, drilling for oil and gas off our coast exposes us to unacceptably great liabilities, without any substantial benefits gained by the tens of millions of citizens who live on and use our coast. The cost of just one offshore accident can be tens of billions of dollars which doesn't account for the intangible costs that include ruining our coastal livelihoods, polluting our clean water and food sources, and destroying our natural heritage.

Please exclude exploration, leasing, and drilling in the Mid- and South Atlantic planning areas in the 2017-2022 Five Year Program.

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