

May 24, 2017

Secretary Ryan Zinke
United States Department of Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Zinke:

As representatives and members of organizations working with and on behalf of millions of Latino, African American, Asian American, and indigenous communities, we write to express our strong opposition to expanded oil and gas drilling and seismic testing in the waters off our coasts.

Opening our oceans to expanded Atlantic and Arctic drilling leaves us all vulnerable to disasters that pose an unacceptable risk to our oceans, beaches, coastal communities, marine life, and to the livelihood of the millions of Americans who depend on healthy oceans for fishing, recreation, and tourism dollars.

Our oceans belong to all of us—the American people—and should be preserved and protected, not turned over to private companies for their short-term and short-sighted financial gain. Far more Americans want to preserve our oceans than to turn them over to oil companies to exploit and worsen already dangerous pollution. By opening up the Arctic and Atlantic to risky drilling, you put our waters and coastal communities at grave risk of a major oil spill and worsening effects of climate change.

Communities in the United States and around the world are directly suffering the impacts of climate change on their health, security, and way of life, and want action. Our communities cannot wait. Not only are we more likely to experience asthma, sea-level rise, and other negative health impacts due to the pollution driven by carbon and other fossil-fuels, millions in our communities rely on healthy oceans to sustain our economies and feed our families. Our future depends on clean renewable energy, not sacrificing our oceans to drill for oil that harms our families' health and pollutes our world.

Clean energy is now the fastest-growing and cheapest source of power in the country. Far more Americans want to preserve our oceans than sell them to oil companies to exploit. We call on

you to listen to us, the American people, and not forsake our oceans, businesses, and future by allowing drilling off our shores and beaches.

Sincerely,

AFC+A

América Verde

Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council

Azul

Conejos Clean Water

Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice

CLEO Institute

Diverse Environmental Leaders

Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition

Farmworker Association of Florida

Gracefully Global Group

Grand Canyon Trust

Green For All

GreenLatinos

Hip Hop Caucus

IDEAS for US

Joshua's House, Inc.

LULAC

MANA

Mi Familia Vota

Mujeres de la Tierra

National Family Farm Coalition

National Hispanic Council on Aging

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association

NOW Strategies

Organize Florida

Project Earth

Project Economic Refuge

Sachamama

SolarFour

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

Speak Hispanic

T.E.J.A.S.

Praxis Project

UMA Mother

VERDE

Voces Verdes