

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 6, 2022

The Honorable Deb Haaland  
Secretary of the Interior  
United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

Thank you for announcing the Interior Department's Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program's 2023-2028 "Proposed Program" (National OCS Program). The release of the 2023-2028 "Proposed Program" was an important first step in recognizing the continued importance of America's offshore energy capabilities.

This administration's commitment to better understanding the importance of domestic energy production, particularly offshore oil and natural gas, has not gone unnoticed, and we look forward to continuing to advance that process during this current comment period. However, it is imperative that key proposals from the Proposed Program are included in the Final National OCS Program. Namely, we request the administration ensure the maximum 10 lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico are included in the final program.

America has both the capability and opportunity to set a standard for the rest of the world when it comes to sustainable energy production. Continuing as a world leader requires effectively using all the resources we have at our disposal, including oil and natural gas.

At a time when our nation is still suffering from high energy costs and inflation, tapping into our abundant domestic natural resources is a significant way to help alleviate hardships on American families and American businesses. Maximizing our domestic energy outputs fortify our national security by reducing our dependence on foreign adversaries for oil and natural gas.

Every presidential administration since the program's authorization – both Democrat *and* Republican –has recognized the importance of continuing the offshore leasing program. Moreover, continuing lease sales gives us an opportunity to generate significant revenue, secure American jobs, stabilize energy markets, secure our energy grid, and enhance our national security.


We support the importance and urgency of addressing the climate crisis. Studies have shown, including one released by the 2016 Obama-Biden administration, the United States is perhaps the best positioned nation in the world to produce oil and natural gas in the least climate-intrusive manner. By ending lease sales in the United States, we would likely experience an outcome where other nations' increased production actually hurts our progress toward a carbon-neutral world.

While we support efforts to move towards greener energy sources, America's energy needs cannot yet be met without oil and natural gas. We welcome the opportunity to work with your administration further to ensure the inclusion of the maximum number of scheduled lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico for the Final National OCS Program for 2023-2028.

Sincerely,

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'V' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sylvia R. Garcia' in a cursive script.

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry Cuellar' in a cursive script.

Henry Cuellar  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lizzie Fletcher' in a cursive script.

Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress