

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

April 13, 2017

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President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

I write in support of reversing the Obama Administration's omission of Atlantic lease sale 260 in the 2017-2022 OCS Five Year Leasing Program. I was profoundly disappointed with Atlantic lease sale 260's initial omission from the Program last year and urge all proposed Atlantic lease sales be included in future leasing plans by the Department of the Interior.

While the Obama Administration turned their backs on consideration of Atlantic oil and gas activity, other nations have aggressively moved forward with programs to lease, explore and produce their offshore areas in the Atlantic. If the United States continuously fails to seize this opportunity, the capital, technology and human resources related to energy production will be deployed to these other countries making our nation more, not less, reliant upon foreign energy production.

Last Congress, the Atlantic lease sale enjoyed bipartisan support among all eight U.S. Senators and a majority of the Congressional delegations from the proposed leasing region. According to polling, a majority of citizens in all four states within the leasing region support expanding access to offshore energy production. Furthermore, a majority of the more than one million public comments received on the Draft Proposed Program supported Atlantic leasing. The will of the affected Atlantic states and the American public, no matter the metric used for measurement, was clearly ignored and the spirit of the process was violated by the Obama Administration.

Undoubtedly, there is strong support for opening the Atlantic OCS for energy exploration. I urge you to release the entire proposed area for Atlantic lease sale 260 without further restriction, opening this region for future oil and gas leasing, exploration and production. The addition of the Atlantic lease sale would be a much welcomed opportunity to unlock our natural resources, create jobs, and boost our region and nation's economy. I look forward to working together to strengthen America's energy and economic security and encourage you to take action reversing the Obama Administration's misguided decision to exclude this important region from the program.

Sincerely,


Richard Hudson