

Senator Drew A. Perkins
Wyoming Senate Senate District 29
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Casper, WY 82601



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July 10, 2014

Kelly Hammerle
Five Year Program Manager
BOEM (HM-3120)
381 Elden Street
Herndon, Virginia 20170

RE: 2017-2022 OCS Oil & Gas Leasing Program

Dear Ms. Hammerle:

I write to convey my strong support for including all 26 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) planning areas in the development of the federal government's 2017-2022 offshore oil and gas leasing Draft Proposed Program. I specifically ask that the areas not currently included in the draft plan and/or under moratoria be added. If those areas are not included, the draft plan will be incomplete and insufficient in that it would prematurely exclude regions from leasing consideration at the outset in the absence of critical environmental, strategic or other applicable and pertinent analyses. Wyoming is not a coastal state, but the development of the OCS affects all Americans.

Without the requested inclusion, BOEM will be unable to ensure that all options for leasing, conservation or other designated purposes will be considered. To add any area to the leasing program during the plan period that is excluded will literally require an act of Congress. Such a failure makes the process as it relates to subsequent leasing of excluded areas more political and less objective and transparent than the scrutiny and transparency available if included in the Draft Proposed Program. Moreover, some of areas that are currently excluded areas may be less sensitive or otherwise less desirable candidates for leasing and development than those that are included in the current version of the draft plan. If BOEM fails to include all OCS areas, doing so prohibits BOEM from successfully developing the comprehensive OCS development plan it needs.

Rational and responsible OCS development is vital to the United States. The development of the combined Atlantic, Eastern Gulf of Mexico and Arctic OCS represent an estimated economic potential for nearly 500,000 jobs and cumulative government revenues of just under \$400 billion. Domestic energy development has played a central role in the nation's recovery from the most significant economic crisis since the Great Depression as well begun to reshape the global geopolitics. Strategically it has created a more secure energy supply and removed some market volatility as demonstrated by the recent upheaval in Iraq. Crude oil prices have remained relatively stable, where just a few years ago, we would likely have seen double digit price increases result from the turmoil. The benefit of domestic oil and gas production are in plain view for anyone who has the vision to see it.

Please have the BOEM include all offshore planning areas in the initial phase.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Drew A. Perkins".

Senator Drew A. Perkins

Senate Appropriations | Vice Chair Capital Finance & Investment