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Senate of Pennsylvania

**TIMOTHY J. SOLOBAY
46TH DISTRICT**

July 16, 2014

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Kelly Hammerle
Five Year Program Manager
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (HM-3120)
381 Elden Street
Herndon, Virginia 20170

RE: 2017-22 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Dear Ms. Hammerle,

I am writing in regard to the federal government's 2017-22 offshore oil and gas leasing program. I write to convey my strong support for including all 26 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) planning areas in the development of the Draft Proposed Program. Proceeding otherwise would prematurely exclude regions from leasing consideration at the outset in the absence of critical environmental analysis.

Based on the latest federal estimate, the U.S. OCS contains approximately 90 billion barrels of oil and over 404 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Many of these resources, however, are located in planning areas that are currently either completely or largely prohibited from development.

For example, the Atlantic OCS contains an estimated 4.72 billion barrels of oil and 37.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, while the eastern Gulf of Mexico holds an estimated 5.07 billion barrels of oil and 16.08 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Those figures represents more than 20 times the 2012 level of annual federal offshore oil production and over 94 times the 2012 level of annual federal offshore natural gas production. In addition to the domestic energy supply boost these resources could provide, reports project that their development could ultimately support more than 440,000 jobs and \$191 billion in cumulative government revenue.

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In the Arctic, it is vital that the U.S. maintain and accelerate opportunities to develop offshore oil and gas in the resource-rich Beaufort and Chukchi Seas. The region holds an estimated 23.6 billion barrels of oil and 104 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, the development of which would create 54,700 jobs and \$193 billion in government revenue. Resource development in the U.S. Arctic would also significantly bolster the nation's influence in a strategically critical area.

Domestic energy development has played a central role in our emergence from the most significant economic crisis since the Great Depression, and the ongoing renaissance is transforming communities across the U.S. as well as reshaping the global geopolitical landscape. For the benefit of citizens and businesses across the country, I therefore respectfully urge the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to include all offshore planning areas during this initial phase.

Sincerely,



Timothy J. Solobay
State Senator

TJS:lp