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Idaho State Senate

SENATOR CHUCK WINDER

July 14, 2014

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

Re: 2017-2022 OCS Oil & Gas Leasing Program

Dear Ms. Hammerle:

While Idaho is not a coastal state, I wish to add my letter of support to develop our nation's off-shore resources. This development is very important to the economic potential of the United States and affects all Americans whether or not they live in a coastal state. It could potentially provide nearly 500,000 jobs and a cumulative government revenue of around 400 billion dollars.

Domestic energy development has always played a central role in the nation's recovery from significant economic crises and has the potential of reshaping global geopolitics. It seems to me, the benefit of domestic oil and gas production is in plain view for anyone who has the vision to see it.

I also feel strongly that all areas not under moratorium, be added to the 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. If all the areas are not included, the draft plan may be incomplete and insufficient. Consequently, the plan would prematurely exclude regions from leasing consideration and conservation at the outset in the absence of critical environmental, strategic or other applicable and pertinent analyses. In addition, some of the areas that are excluded may be less desirable candidates for leasing and development than those that are currently included in the draft plan. Therefore, it is critical that all areas be included from the outset.

I appreciate your help and consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or further developments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Winder".

Senator Chuck Winder
Assistant Majority Leader
Idaho State Senate