

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your January 27, 2021 issuance of Executive Order 14008. Pausing new leasing for offshore oil and gas drilling on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) is an important first step toward preventing billions of dollars in damage from climate change and oil spill disasters, one that can lead us on a path to a clean energy economy. Implementing federal moratoria on offshore oil and gas leasing and pre-leasing activities has received support from both sides of the aisle—including Republican and Democratic administrations.

As you know, our coastal communities depend upon healthy ocean ecosystems. Accordingly, protection of the roughly 3.3 million American jobs and \$250 billion in GDP through activities such as fishing, recreation, and tourism is vital. Dirty and dangerous offshore drilling, and its increased emissions, are fueling the climate crisis and threaten already vulnerable frontline communities and wildlife.

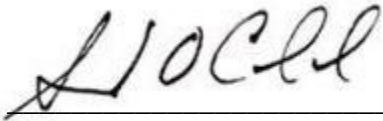
We welcome your Administration's willingness to listen and take action. Offshore drilling protections are supported by more than 390 coastal municipalities; alliances representing over 56,000 businesses and 500,000 fishing families; the Pacific, New England, South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic fishery management councils, as well as several commercial and recreational fishing interests; and 2,300 officials of both parties at all levels of government, including every East and West Coast governor.

Our climate is in crisis, with sea levels rising and extreme weather accelerating. Protecting all unleased areas of the OCS is critical to avoiding even worse impacts from climate change. Permanently protecting these regions would prevent over 19 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions and more than \$720 billion in damage to people, property, and the environment. Simply put, we cannot afford more drilling and unchecked climate pollution.

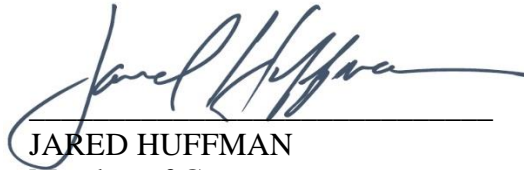
By taking this step and investing in clean energy, we can advance ambitious and durable climate action that protects coastal economies, creates jobs, and benefits all Americans. Again, we thank you for this action, and we look forward to working with you to secure this future.

Sincerely,

Congress of the United States
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SALUD CARBAJAL
Member of Congress



JARED HUFFMAN
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



ALAN S. LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



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Member of Congress

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GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress

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FREDERICA S. WILSON
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress

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MIKE LEVIN
Member of Congress

/s/

ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress

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JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress

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EARL BLUMENAUER
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Member of Congress

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MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress

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NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN
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DORIS MATSUI
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