

SAMPLE LETTER

In response to the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Request for Information and Comments (issued on July 4, 2017)

Ms. Kelly Hammerle
National Program Manager, BOEM
45600 Woodland Road
Mailstop VAM-LD
Sterling, VA 20166

Dear Ms. Hammerle,

I am writing in response to the Department of Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) request for information on the draft 5-year program to manage offshore oil and gas development in the outer continental shelf from 2019 to 2024. Federal lands in the Atlantic Ocean should NOT be opened up for lease sales for the development of oil and gas reserves.

Wells drilled from 1950s through the 1980s proved that no energy reserves are available for efficient extraction off Georgia's coast, in particular. Additionally, BOEM's own report from 2015 states that the net social value of the anticipated oil and gas reserves potentially extracted off the coast of the South Atlantic planning region are near negligible. It is not wise to allow private exploration in such a sensitive area of our outer continental shelf.

I call Georgia's coast home because of the incredible quality of life here. Our quality of life is bolstered by the character of our communities, the access to pristine beaches and natural areas, and the high real estate values. If your plan for offshore drilling for oil and gas moves forward, we could lose the assets that make Georgia's coast a great place to live and work. The BP Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico is proof that a small incident can, overnight, destroy the character of the places we call home.

Do not include the State of Georgia in the 5-year leasing plan for oil and gas development. We value the assets we currently have here and do not want to threaten their future for a dangerous and short-sighted plan like offshore drilling. Such risky endeavors will only benefit a few oil and gas companies for a short period of time while bringing little to the future of our own treasured community.

Sincerely,

NAME
ADDRESS
EMAIL and PHONE