



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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July 3, 2018

Governor Kate Brown
900 Court St. NE Room 160
Salem, OR 97301

RE: 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Dear Governor Brown,

Oregon's Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) is writing to thank you for your March 9, 2018 letter in response to the U.S. Department of Interior's Proposed five-year National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019 – 2024. From local communities to the highest offices in the Oregon, OPAC joins the numerous voices in opposition to offshore oil and gas development.

The Oregon Coast is known for its unspoiled and outstanding natural beauty, and its coastal communities rely upon the ocean as the backbone of their fishing and tourism economies. The State has a long history in protecting its renewable resources through laws, regulations, and policies including the Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 19 (Ocean Resources), the Oregon Ocean Resources Management Plan, the current prohibition of oil and gas leasing in state waters (HB 3613, 2010) and the Territorial Sea Plan (TSP). The TSP was originally drafted by OPAC and adopted in 1994, and periodically amended to deal with concerns as they occur. Most recently, OPAC has done extensive analysis and mapping to document existing offshore uses, habitats, and over 144 scenic ocean viewsheds. In reviewing these assets, coupled with the lack of oil and gas resources off our coast, OPAC is unwilling to accept the risks from offshore oil and gas development.

In closing, we encourage you to continue to be a strong advocate for our State's ocean resources and to take actions necessary to remove Oregon from the 2019-2024 Leasing Program.

Best Regards,

Jena Carter, Chair
Oregon Ocean Policy Council

Walter Chuck, Vice Chair
Oregon Ocean Policy Council