

FEB - 5 2001



## OFFICES OF THE GOVERNORS



**John A. Kitzhaber, Oregon**

**Gary Locke, Washington**

January 31, 2001

The Honorable Gale Norton, Secretary  
United States Department of Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Norton:

Thank you for providing Oregon and Washington an opportunity to comment on the development of the U.S. Department of Interior's (DOI) proposed 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2002-2007. As you know, our states have had a moratorium on oil and gas leasing since 1990. We continue to support this moratorium, and were encouraged to read President Bush's press statement that he will support us on this.

Since this issue is now before you, we would like to give you some of the history of our existing agreement on oil and gas leasing. In 1990, our states reached an agreement with DOI that had been developed by DOI's Pacific Northwest OCS Task Force. J. Lisle Reed, the Minerals Management Service's Pacific Regional Director, participated on the OCS Task Force and supported the agreement. The Task Force also included the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission.

The 1990 agreement stated that, "no lease sales will be considered for the Pacific Northwest until a series of environmental studies are completed for the region." These studies have not yet been started and will take six years to complete once begun. Following the agreement, then-President Bush canceled the 1992 lease sale off the Pacific Northwest coast.

It is our understanding and expectation that the 1990 agreement, coupled with President Clinton's 1998 Executive Order prohibiting lease-sale consideration until after June, 2012, will continue to serve as DOI policy regarding leasing off the Pacific Northwest coast.

The Honorable Gale Norton  
January 31, 2001  
Page 2

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Pacific Northwest Task Force resolution and a summary of the environmental studies package. We look forward to working with you and the Minerals Management Service on this and other issues important to our region.

Sincerely,



John A. Kitzhaber  
Governor of Oregon



Gary Locke  
Governor of Washington

Enclosures

c: The Oregon Congressional Delegation  
The Washington Congressional Delegation  
Council on Environmental Quality