

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 30, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Support for the Five-Year Draft Proposed Program to Develop Offshore Energy Resources

Dear Secretary Salazar:

Last year, rising energy prices put middle-class families, small businesses, and all sectors of our economy under tremendous strain. As a result, Congress and President Bush removed the moratoria on Outer Continental Shelf energy development which had been in place for more than 20 years. Unfortunately, the new Administration immediately took action in February to prevent offshore drilling by delaying the Minerals Management Service's Draft Proposed Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil & Gas Leasing Program for 2010 to 2015.


As your Department collects opinions from Americans about the draft offshore plan, we write to register our strong support for expanded offshore development as part of an "all of the above" approach to increased U.S. energy independence. As elected officials who represent middle-class families who are struggling because of rising energy costs and the highest unemployment rate in decades, we believe that the draft proposed plan is a critically important step in creating a robust national energy policy and strengthening our economy. At a time when 14.7 million Americans are out of work, it is more important than ever that the federal government move forward with this plan to responsibly develop our energy supply, create new jobs, lower energy costs, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

By offering new leasing opportunities in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans – as well as in Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico – the proposed plan is appropriately expansive, provides maximum flexibility to properly utilize all of our nation's domestic resources, and helps coastal communities pursue leasing and responsible development in the deep waters off their coastlines. Important offshore areas, like those in Alaska, offer tremendous natural gas and oil resources. By some estimates the Chukchi Sea, off Alaska's coast, contains as much natural gas and oil as the country has produced in the Gulf of Mexico since 1942. The Administration should not continue to stand in the way of American energy development.

Additionally, we hope that the Minerals Management Service will continue to move forward with the 2007-2012 Leasing Program for all available leasing areas, including the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic and offshore Alaska.

In conclusion, we urge the Department to open new leasing areas included in the 2010-2015 draft proposed offshore plan and responsibly develop the abundant energy resources off our coasts.

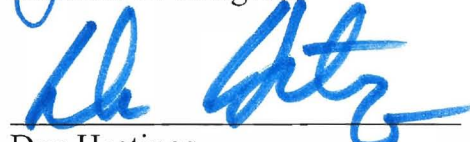
Sincerely,




John Boehner
Member of Congress



Eric Cantor
Member of Congress




Doc Hastings
Member of Congress



Tom Price
Member of Congress

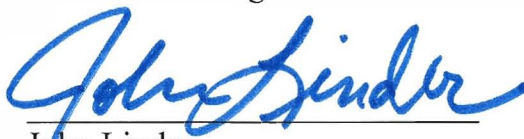


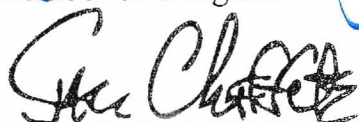
Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

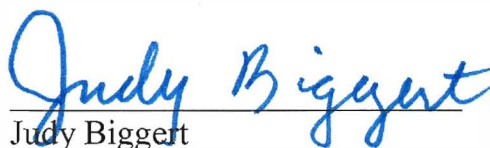

Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress

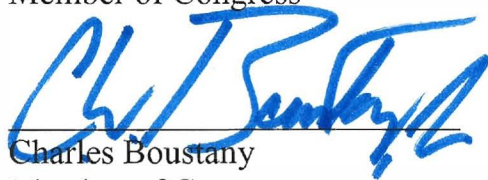

Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

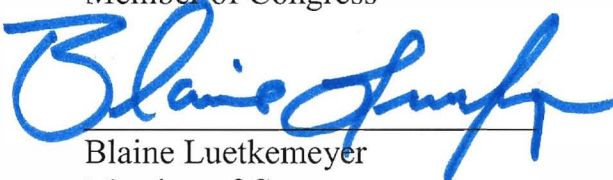

John Fleming
Member of Congress



John Linder
Member of Congress



Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress

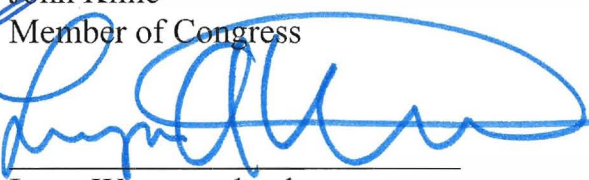

Judy Biggert
Member of Congress

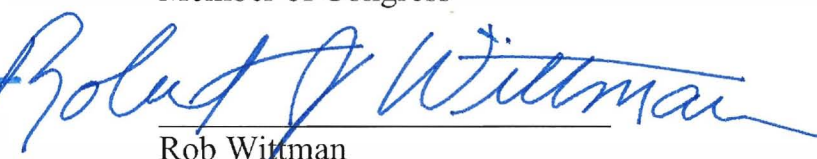

Charles Boustany
Member of Congress

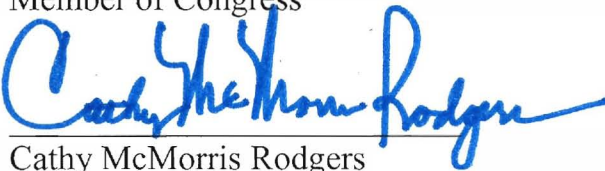

Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress

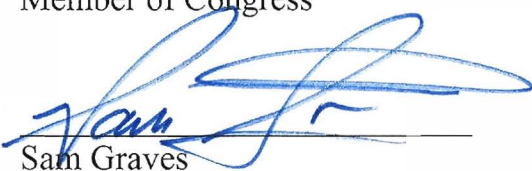

John Kline
Member of Congress



Sam Johnson
Member of Congress


Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress



Rob Wittman
Member of Congress


Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress


Sam Graves
Member of Congress


Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress

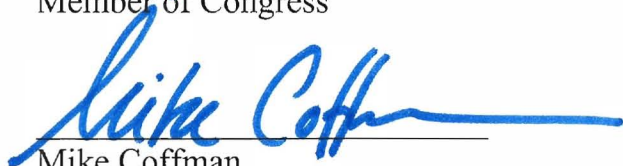

Mike Pence
Member of Congress



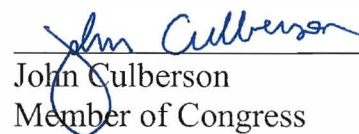
Mary Fallin
Member of Congress



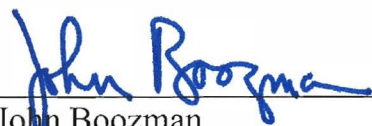
Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress



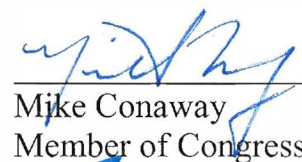
Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



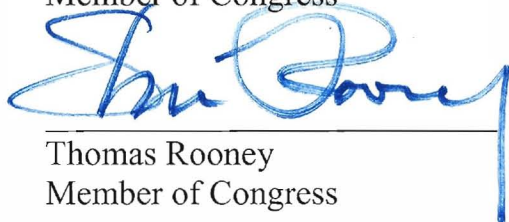
John Culberson
Member of Congress



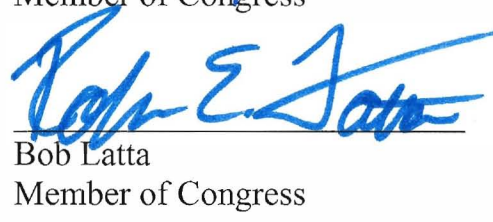
John Boozman
Member of Congress



Mike Conaway
Member of Congress



Thomas Rooney
Member of Congress



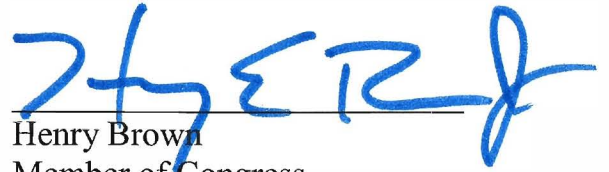
Bob Latta
Member of Congress



Chris Lee
Member of Congress




Bob Inglis
Member of Congress



Henry Brown
Member of Congress



Michele Bachmann
Member of Congress



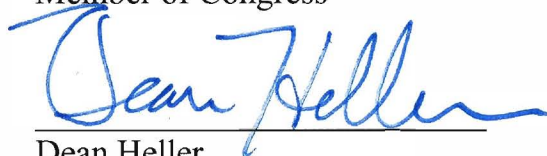
Patrick Tiberi
Member of Congress



Todd Akin
Member of Congress



Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress



Dean Heller
Member of Congress



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Michael McCaul
Member of Congress



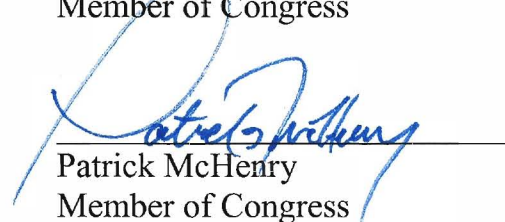
Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Bill Shuster
Member of Congress



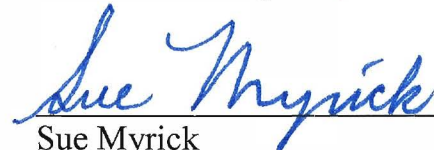
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress



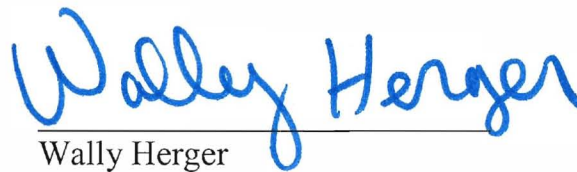
Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress



Sue Myrick
Member of Congress



Jeff Flake
Member of Congress



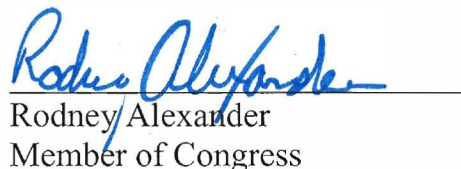
Wally Herger
Member of Congress



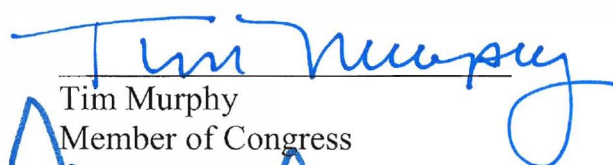
Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



Gregg Harper
Member of Congress



Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress



Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



Paul Broun
Member of Congress



Dave Camp
Member of Congress



Phil Roe
Member of Congress




Joe Pitts
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



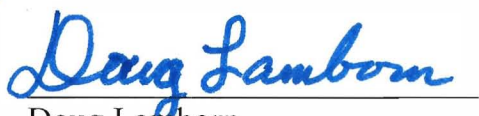
Ted Poe
Member of Congress



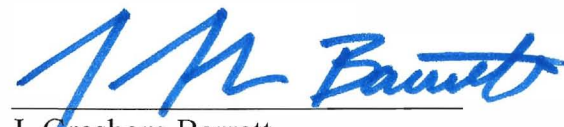
John Sullivan
Member of Congress



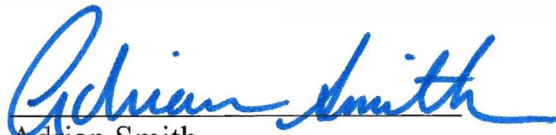
John Shadegg
Member of Congress



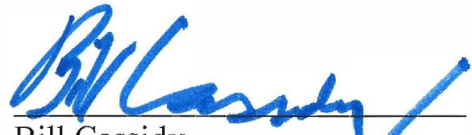
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



J. Gresham Barrett
Member of Congress



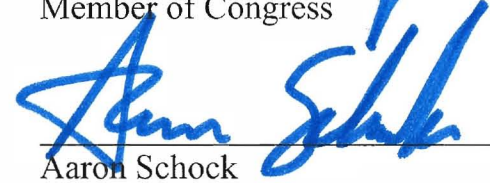
Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Aaron Schock
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



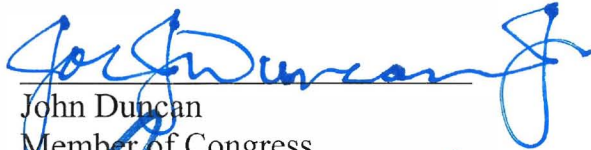
Pete Olson
Member of Congress



Joe Barton
Member of Congress



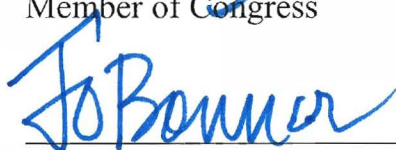
Fred Upton
Member of Congress




John Duncan
Member of Congress



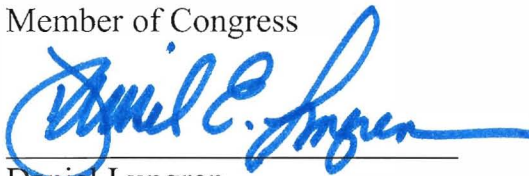
Don Manzullo
Member of Congress



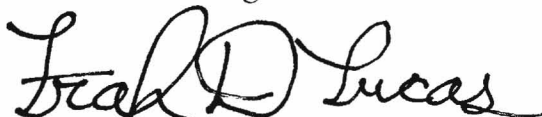
Jo Bonner
Member of Congress



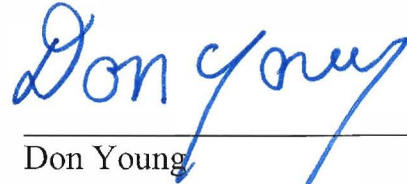
Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



Daniel Lungren
Member of Congress



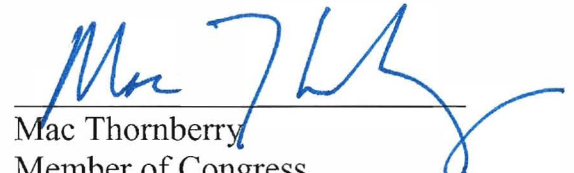
Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



Don Young
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Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



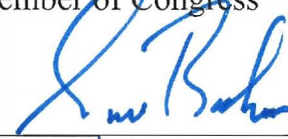
Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress



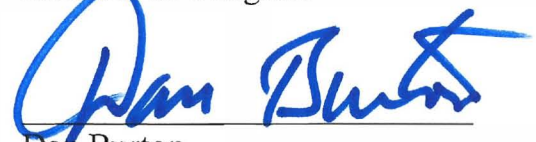
Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Jerry Moran
Member of Congress



Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress




Dan Burton
Member of Congress



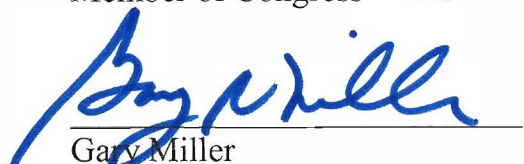
Mike Simpson
Member of Congress




Lee Terry
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



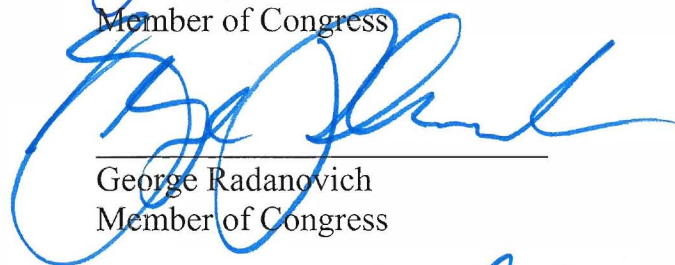
Gary Miller
Member of Congress



Jack Kingston
Member of Congress



Hal Rogers
Member of Congress



George Radanovich
Member of Congress



Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress



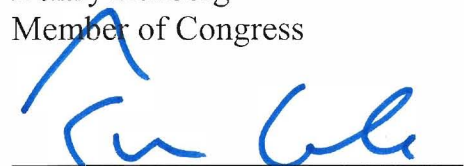
Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress



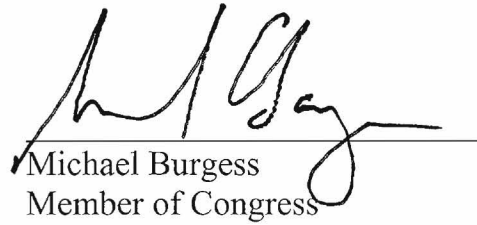
Denny Rehberg
Member of Congress



John Shimkus
Member of Congress



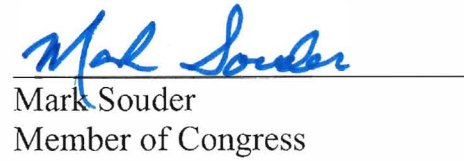
Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Michael Burgess
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



Mark Souder
Member of Congress