

August 13, 2014

Kelly Hammerle  
Five Year Program Manager  
BOEM (HM-3120)  
381 Elden Street  
Herndon, Virginia 20170

**RE: Request for Information on 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Leasing Program**

Dear Ms. Hammerle:

In response to the request for information on the development of the federal government's 2017-2022 offshore oil and gas-leasing program, I write to convey our strong support for including all 26 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) planning areas in the development of the Draft Proposed Program. Proceeding otherwise would prematurely exclude regions from leasing consideration at the outset in the absence of critical environmental analysis.

Based on the latest federal estimate, the U.S. OCS contains approximately 90 billion barrels of oil and over 404 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Many of these resources, however, are located in planning areas that are currently either completely or largely prohibited from development.

The experience in the Gulf of Mexico demonstrates how significant offshore energy development is to the Gulf Coast states and coastal communities. In 2009, offshore oil and gas activity in the Gulf of Mexico generated almost \$70 billion of economic value and nearly 400,000 jobs. That same year, the industry provided \$20 billion in revenues to federal, state and local governments, making the industry one of the largest sources of revenue to the federal government.

Continued and expanded access to all areas of the Gulf of Mexico will increase these economic gains for Gulf Coast residents and ensure that the Gulf Coast continues to supply American consumers across the country with reliable crude oil, petroleum products and natural gas. Quest Offshore Resources has estimated that an increase in Gulf of Mexico offshore oil and gas activity could support 180,000 jobs across the Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana region, and Wood Mackenzie estimates that oil and gas development in the Eastern Planning Area could create 100,000 new jobs in Florida alone.

For the benefit of citizens and businesses in Louisiana and throughout the Gulf of Mexico, we respectfully urge the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to include all offshore planning areas during this initial phase.

Sincerely,



Suzanne Nolfo Carlos  
President/CEO