

NANCY MACE
1ST DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
AND ACCOUNTABILITY

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
1728 LONGWORTH HOUSE
OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3176
WWW.MACE.HOUSE.GOV

MOUNT PLEASANT OFFICE
652 COLEMAN BLVD.
SUITE 102
MOUNT PLEASANT, SC 29464
(843) 352-7572

BEAUFORT OFFICE
710 BOUNDARY ST.
BEAUFORT, SC 29902
(843) 521-2530

June 2, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum:

As the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) begins a public engagement process to develop a new schedule for offshore oil and gas lease sales in the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf, we urge you to preserve the existing moratorium on offshore oil and gas exploration, development, and production off the coast of South Carolina.

On April 15th, you directed BOEM to initiate the first step in the process of developing the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Program, developing a new schedule for offshore oil and gas lease sales on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf.¹ While we certainly understand the need to unleash American energy production to contend with the rise in energy demand, we do not believe oil and gas exploration and production off the coast of South Carolina is in our citizens best interests.

South Carolina is home to 187 miles of coastline, featuring breathtaking beaches, sea islands, waterways, and saltwater marshes. The pristine beauty of these delicate ecosystems is a key driver of our state's \$30 billion tourism industry, which supports the one in ten South Carolina jobs in our state's hospitality sector.² It also supports a vibrant fishing and maritime industry, which is a crucial component of our coastal economy as well as our heritage. The unspoiled beauty of our coast offers unmatched outdoor recreation opportunities for South Carolinians and is a reason so many people call South Carolina home.

¹ <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-announces-eleventh-national-outer-continental-shelf-oil-and-gas-leasing>

² <https://www.scpri.com/articles/south-carolina-travel-and-tourism-week-begins-may-4>

On September 8th, 2020, President Trump wisely issued a memorandum withdrawing the South Atlantic Planning Area, which includes the coast of South Carolina, from leasing disposition—preventing consideration of any leasing for oil and gas exploration, development, or production during the 10-year period beginning on July 1, 2022, and ending on June 30, 2032.³ This was an important step to protecting our coastal economy and our South Carolina way of life.

As you advise President Trump on Outer Continental Shelf leasing dispositions and as BOEM begins the process to develop the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program, we strongly urge you to preserve the existing ban on offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling off South Carolina's coast put in place by President Trump.

In South Carolina, there is widespread bipartisan agreement in opposing offshore drilling off the coast of our state. Every coastal community in South Carolina has adopted a resolution opposing offshore drilling off the coast of South Carolina—a position reaffirmed on numerous occasions by the towns, cities, counties, and South Carolina's state legislature.

We greatly appreciate your dedication as Secretary of the Interior, and Chair of the National Energy Dominance Council, to ensuring an abundant, affordable, and reliable energy supply for the American people, while also protecting the natural beauty which makes this country – and South Carolina – so special.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Mace". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nancy" and last name "Mace" clearly distinguishable.

Nancy Mace
Member of Congress

³ Memorandum on Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf From Leasing Disposition, Daily Comp. Pres. Docs., 2020 DCPD No. 202000659 (September 9, 2020)