

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

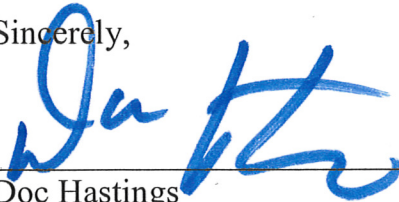
We strongly object to your recent announcement that the Obama Administration intends to discard the 2010-2015 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease plan and delay implementation of a new leasing plan until 2012. This means that not one lease sale of areas previously under moratoria will occur during President Obama's entire term in office. This is unacceptable to the overwhelming majority of the American people who support expanded offshore drilling, measured at 68% in one recent poll, and a step backwards from the President's statements that he wants to improve our nation's energy security.

While the Administration may not feel the sense of urgency to enact a new five-year plan, the American people do. In 2008, in response to rising prices, the American people called on Congress to act by opening the OCS for exploration and development. The American people should not have to wait the entire four years of the President's term before any action is taken to explore and develop our precious national oil and gas resources from these new areas. By waiting until 2012, the Administration will unilaterally reinstate the ban on offshore drilling – and do it against the will of the American people.

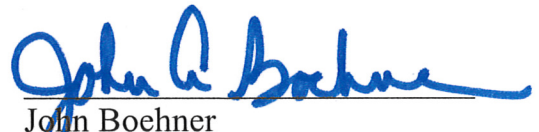
There is no question that establishment of this new "Obama Moratorium" will have dire impacts on our economic future. These years of delay will directly result in uncreated jobs for unemployed Americans, billions of dollars in lost revenues to the U.S. Treasury, and a greater dependence on unstable foreign sources of oil and natural gas that puts our national security at risk. This action cancels nearly a dozen lease sales in the OCS that were scheduled to begin in July, 2010. The Department's stalling and blockade of new energy production from the OCS endangers tens of thousands of existing jobs, and also prevents the creation of new jobs that would help lower our nation's nearly ten percent unemployment rate. Opening new areas to drilling and job creation would be a no-cost stimulus for the U.S. economy.

Congress' intent of opening the OCS was to offer as much of the newly available 500 million acres, which contain at least 14 billion barrels of oil and 55 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, for new American energy production. It should be the policy of the Administration to execute the will of Congress and the American people. Instead, the Administration is poised to use their new plan timeline as a backdoor opportunity to reinstate a moratorium that closes off wide expanses of the OCS. It is not too late to reverse this course of action, abandon this "Obama Moratorium," and implement the 2010-2015 plan beginning in July to help create jobs and new American-made energy production.

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources



John Boehner
Republican Leader



Eric Cantor
Republican Whip



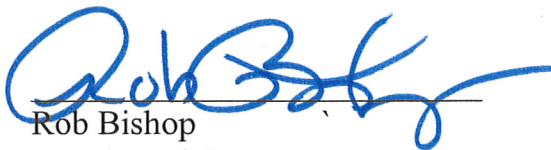
Mike Pence
Member of Congress



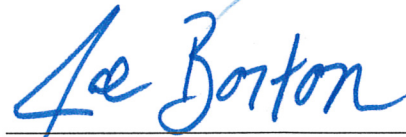
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



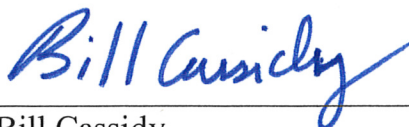
Tom Price
Member of Congress



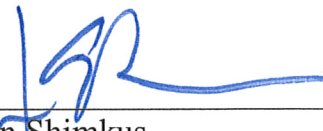
Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



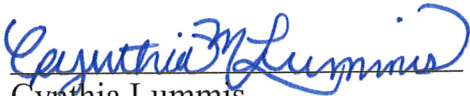
Joe Barton
Member of Congress



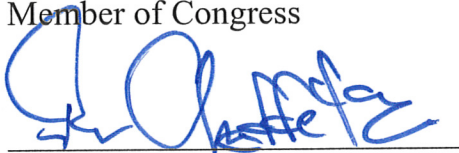
Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress





John Shimkus
Member of Congress



Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress

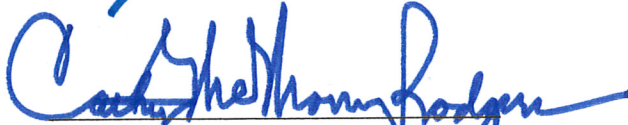

John Fleming
Member of Congress


Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress


Charles Boustany
Member of Congress

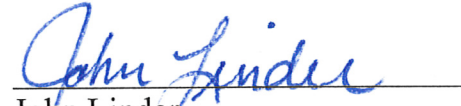

John Kline
Member of Congress


Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress

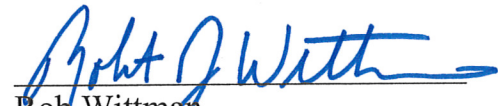

Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

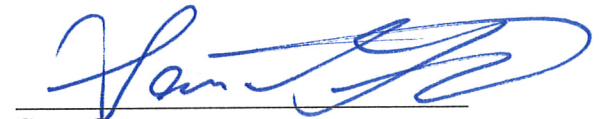

John Linder
Member of Congress



Judy Biggert
Member of Congress

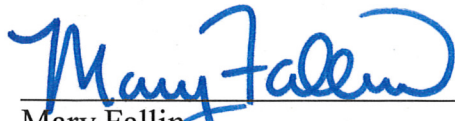

Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress


Sam Johnson
Member of Congress


Rob Wittman
Member of Congress

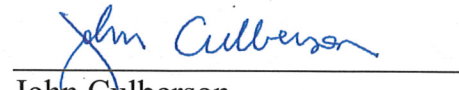

Sam Graves
Member of Congress

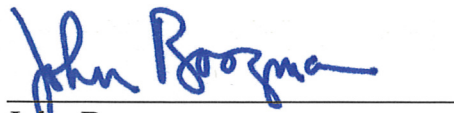

Greg Walden
Member of Congress

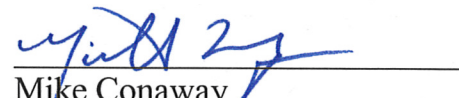

Mary Fallin
Member of Congress

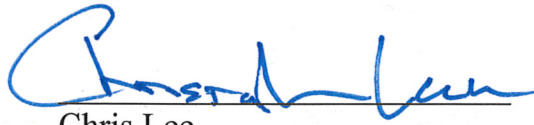

Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress

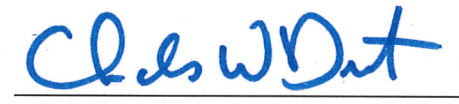

Mike Coffman
Member of Congress

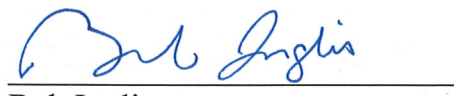

John Culberson
Member of Congress

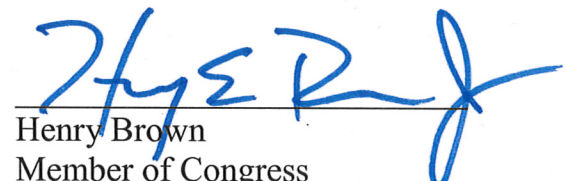

John Boozman
Member of Congress

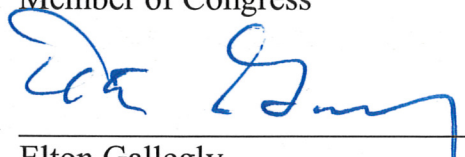

Mike Conaway
Member of Congress



Chris Lee
Member of Congress


Charles Dent
Member of Congress


Bob Inglis
Member of Congress

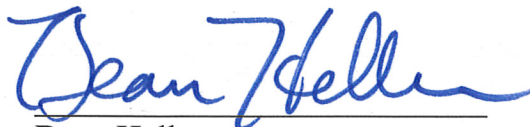

Henry Brown
Member of Congress

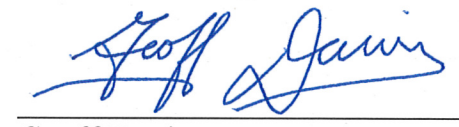

Elton Gallegly
Member of Congress


Jim Gerlach
Member of Congress


Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress

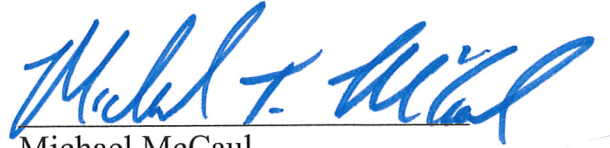

Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress


Dean Heller
Member of Congress

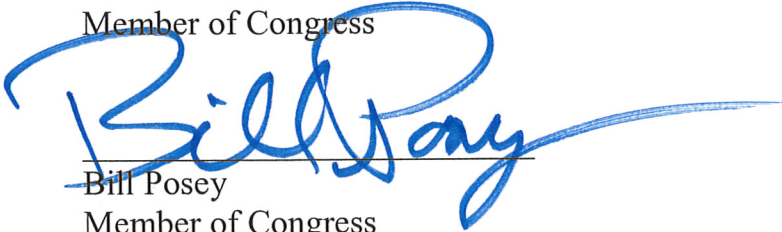

Geoff Davis
Member of Congress



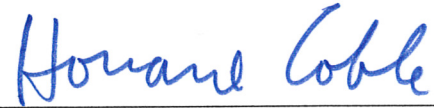
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



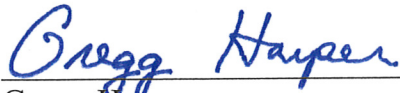
Michael McCaul
Member of Congress



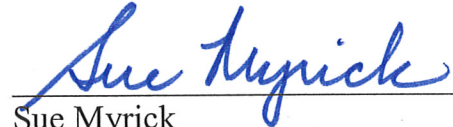
Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Howard Coble
Member of Congress



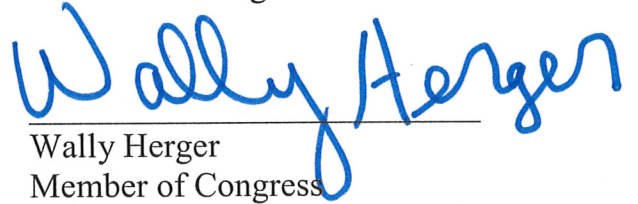
Gregg Harper
Member of Congress



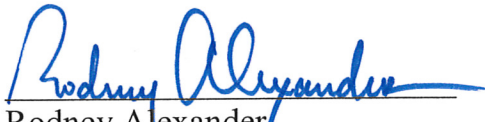
Sue Myrick
Member of Congress



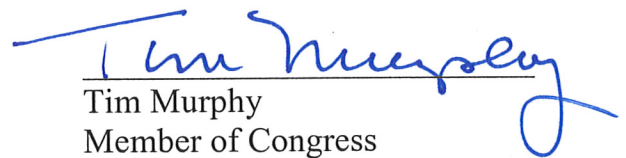
Jeff Flake
Member of Congress




Wally Herger
Member of Congress



Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress



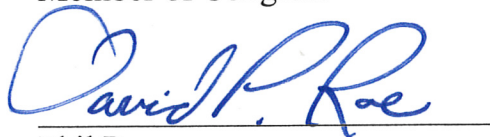
Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



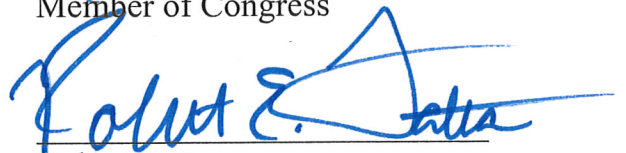
Paul Broun
Member of Congress



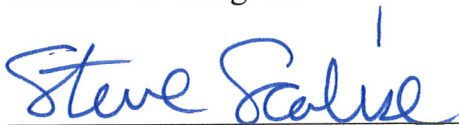
Mark Souder
Member of Congress



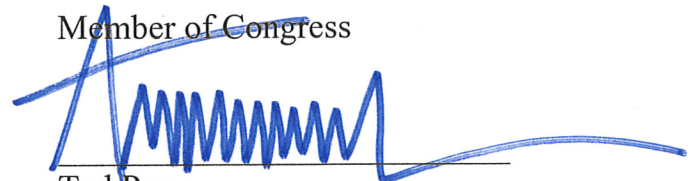
Phil Roe
Member of Congress



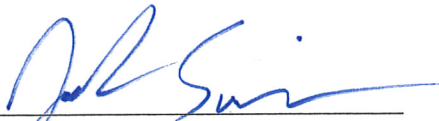
Robert Latta
Member of Congress



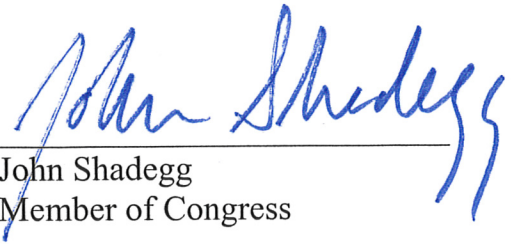
Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



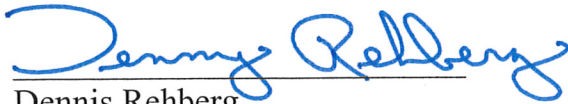
Ted Poe
Member of Congress



John Sullivan
Member of Congress



John Shadegg
Member of Congress



Dennis Rehberg
Member of Congress



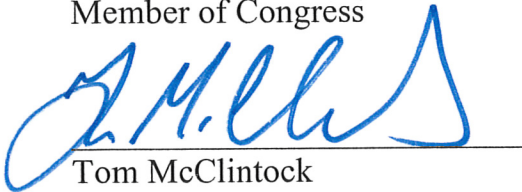
J. Gresham Barrett
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Thaddeus McCotter
Member of Congress



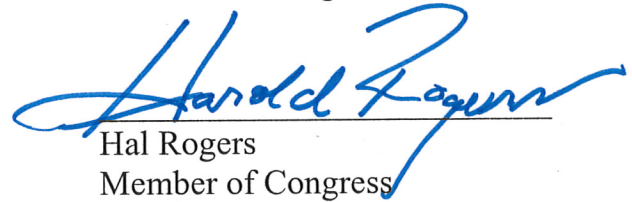
Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



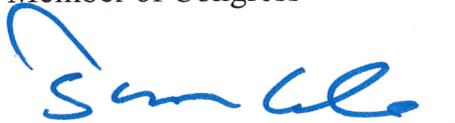
Aaron Schock
Member of Congress



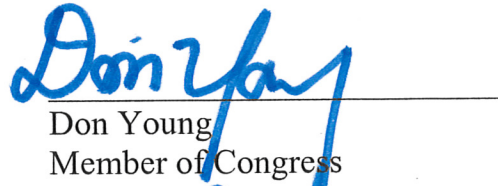
Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Hal Rogers
Member of Congress



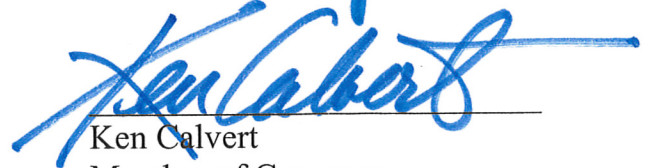
Tom Cole
Member of Congress



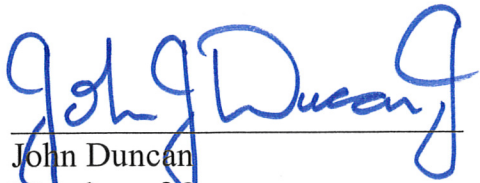
Don Young
Member of Congress



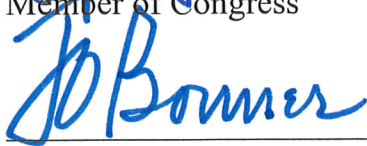
Jack Kingston
Member of Congress



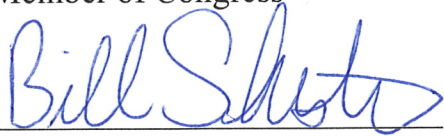
Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



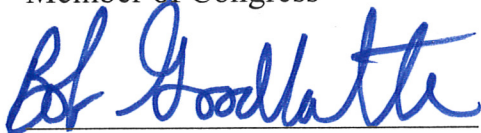
John Duncan
Member of Congress



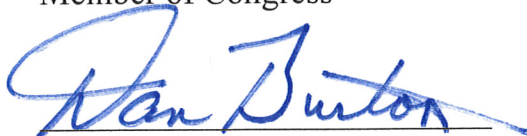
Member of Congress



Member of Congress



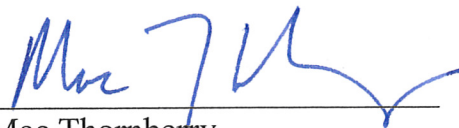
Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



Dan Burton
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

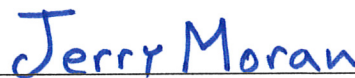
Member of Congress



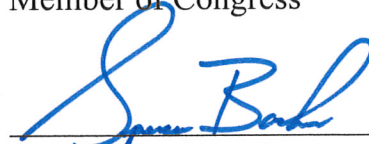
Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress



Shelley Moore Capito
Member of Congress



Jerry Moran
Member of Congress




Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress



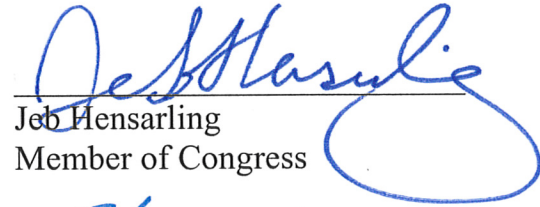
Lamar Smith
Member of Congress



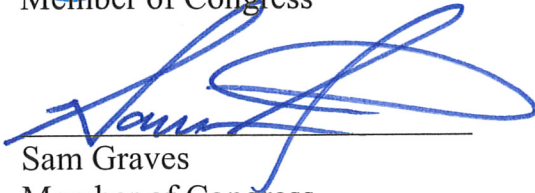
Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress



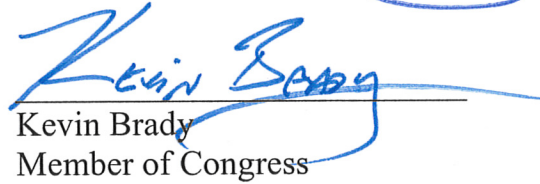
Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady
Member of Congress