California Central Coast Caucus

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Anna M. Caballero
Henry I. Stern

November 24, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

SUBJECT: Opposition to New Federal Offshore Oil Drilling Proposal

Dear Secretary Burgum,

We, the members of the California Legislative Central Coast Caucus (CLCCC), joined by legislative colleagues from across the state, strongly urge you to remove California from the Trump Administration's proposal to expand offshore drilling. Advancing this plan would inflict significant and lasting harm on our coastal economies, our environment, and the well-being of millions of Californians.

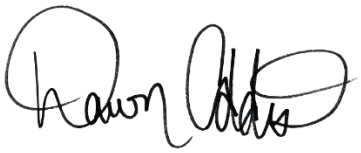
The CLCCC includes California state legislative representatives from communities across the Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. Collectively, we represent close to 400 miles of coastline, more than two million Californians, and more than $80 billion in economic activity through tourism, agriculture, clean technology, and, most importantly, our natural beauty.

The administration's proposal would permit new offshore drilling in California's coastal waters for the first time in more than forty years. Not only is this unwarranted, it is harmful. Most of the new leases would be off the coast of Santa Barbara County - the same region devastated by the largest oil spill in California history in 1969 and again by the Refugio Spill in 2015. These disasters killed hundreds of marine animals, shut down fisheries and coastal tourism, and cost millions in lost revenue. Moving forward with drilling off California's coast would ignore the lessons of the past and once again put our communities and economy at serious risk.

California's coastal and ocean sectors are essential to our state's prosperity. From north to south, our coastal and ocean industries generate over $51 billion in gross state product and employ more than half a million people. Tourism and recreation account for 47% of this economic output, almost ten times the economic benefit of offshore oil drilling. Expanding drilling would threaten the industries that sustain our coastal communities while providing minimal economic benefit in return. As a donor state that contributes far more to the federal government than it receives, any threat to California's economy has national implications, affecting federal revenues and programs across the country.

It is our responsibility to protect our natural world for generations to come and to maintain the progress we have made over the last four decades. The consequences of expanding offshore oil drilling will be far-reaching, jeopardizing our coastal communities, state economy, and national interests. Therefore, we urge you to remove California from the federal administration's offshore drilling expansion proposal.

Sincerely,

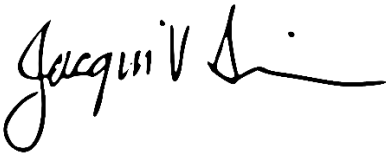


DAWN ADDIS
Co-Chair, 30th Assembly District

GREGG HART
Co-Chair, 37th Assembly District

JOHN LAIRD
Vice Chair, 17th Senate District

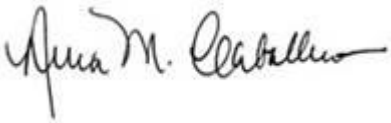
STEVE BENNETT
Assemblymember, 38th District



JACQUI IRWIN
Assemblymember, 42nd District

GAIL PELLERIN
Assemblymember, 28th District

HENRY STERN
Senator, 27th District



ANNA CABALLERO
Senator, 14th District

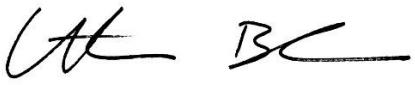
DAVID ALVAREZ
Assemblymember, 80th District

JESSE ARREGUÍN
Senator, 7th District

REBECCA BAUER-KAHAN
Assemblymember, 16th District

JOSH BECKER
Senator, 13th District

MARC BERMAN
Assemblymember, 23rd District



CATHERINE BLAKESPEAR
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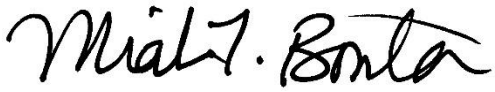
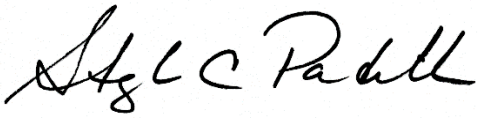
TASHA BOERNER
Assemblymember, 77th District

LENA GONZALEZ
Senator, 33rd District



MIA BONTA
Assemblymember, 18th District



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Assemblymember, 12th District

SCOTT WIENER
Senator, 11th District

JOHN HARABEDIAN
Assemblymember, 41st District

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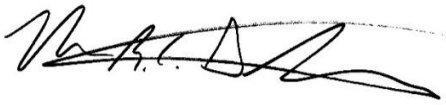
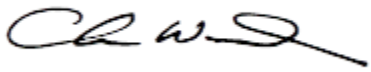
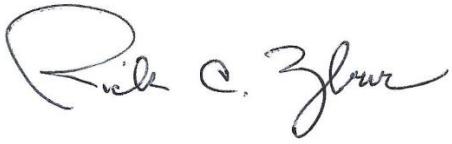
Assemblymember, 40th District



NICK SCHULTZ
Assemblymember, 44th District



CHRISTOPHER WARD
Assemblymember, 78th District



RICK ZBUR
Assemblymember, 51st District

DIANE PAPAN
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BEN ALLEN
Senator, 24th District

MARÍA DURAZO
Senator, 26th District

CC Governor Gavin Newsom
Attorney General Rob Bonta
California Congressional Delegation