

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Deb Haaland  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

September 6, 2023

Dear President Biden and Secretary Haaland,

On behalf of 204 organizations, we urge the administration to reject new offshore fossil fuel leases in the National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Program for 2023-2028 (“Five-Year Program”). We must put an end to drilling for oil and gas in our ocean if we are to limit the worst impacts of climate change, protect the health of our most vulnerable communities, and safeguard our threatened [marine wildlife](#). The Five-Year Program, scheduled for release in September, is the place to make this literal sea change.

New oil and gas leasing on the nation’s OCS in the upcoming Five-Year Program is a step backward on climate that we cannot afford. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has found that any new fossil fuel development, including in our ocean, is [incompatible with limiting global warming](#) to 1.5 degrees Celsius; the International Energy Agency has similarly said new oil and gas fields are [inconsistent with "net zero emissions"](#) by 2050. Offshore lease sales lock in new production for decades, resulting in hundreds of millions of metric tons of CO2 emissions. By its own calculation, the Department of the Interior’s [Five-Year Program as drafted](#) would generate carbon emissions up to ten times the size of Alaska’s Willow project.

Expanded OCS oil and gas drilling would also perpetuate a legacy of harms to our coastal communities and wildlife. Researchers have found that particulate pollution from the combustion of fossil fuels is directly responsible for an estimated [350,000 deaths](#) and [\\$77 billion](#) in health impacts annually, in the United States alone. Climate change will increase this health toll exponentially, as well as cause trillions of dollars in property damage. These tragic burdens are and will be disproportionately borne by some of our most vulnerable and disadvantaged populations, such as in the Gulf South. Every stage of offshore drilling has harmful impacts to marine life. From [seismic blasting](#) to oil spills, this dirty industry is a direct threat to ocean wildlife and the ecosystems that sustain them. If the administration is committed to championing

equity and environmental justice and to combatting the biodiversity crisis, it cannot maintain the practice of leasing our public waters to the highest bidders.

The administration should consider the upcoming Five-Year Program to be a critical opportunity. As part of the nation's global climate commitment, the President has committed to cut carbon emissions fifty percent by 2030 (as well as net zero by 2050). The buildout of clean energy infrastructure that will be spurred by the recently-passed Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Act are predicted to lead to a [33 to 40 percent emissions reduction](#) by 2030. A decision on your part to end new ocean oil and gas leasing would substantially contribute to closing the remaining 10 to 19 percent reduction gap. Conversely, however, continuing "business as usual" leasing policies would make this necessary task that much more difficult. As [recent polling shows](#), the public strongly supports a marriage of transitioning to justly sourced renewable energy with ending any expansion of oil and gas drilling in our ocean.

More offshore leasing is as unnecessary for our energy security as it is disastrous for our climate and communities. The U.S. produces enough oil and gas that it far exceeds our domestic needs and is [exported](#) to other countries. Moreover, because of the lag time between lease issuance and production, an end to new leasing would not meaningfully affect offshore production levels for almost a decade. Over that time, experts expect oil demand to decline significantly due to federal and state policies encouraging renewable energy development, incentivizing the transition to electric vehicles, and placing stricter limits on carbon emissions from cars and trucks.

The most recent [IPCC report](#) is clear: what we do, or fail to do, now will determine whether we will face a livable or catastrophic climate in the decades ahead. The current administration has set the country on a bold new course toward climate solutions. We now ask for your leadership to maintain this course, to meet the IPCC's challenge, and to issue the Five-Year Program with no new leasing.

Sincerely,

1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations

198 methods

350 Bay Area Action

350 Chicago

350 Colorado

350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley

350 Hawaii

350 Mass

350 Pensacola

350 Sacramento

350 Seattle

350 US

## 7 Directions of Service

Accelerate Neighborhood Climate Action  
Action for the Climate Emergency (ACE)  
Alabama Interfaith Power & Light  
Alaska Community Action on Toxics  
Alaska Wilderness League  
American Friends Service Committee  
Animal Welfare Institute  
Animals Are Sentient Beings Inc  
ARTivism Virginia  
Azul  
Bayou City Waterkeeper  
Black Girl Environmentalist  
Bold Alliance  
Bronx Climate Justice North  
Businesses for a Livable Climate  
California Democratic Party Environmental Caucus  
Call to Action Colorado  
CASA  
Cascadia Climate Action Now  
CASE Citizens Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood  
CatholicNetwork US  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Oil and Gas Organizing  
Chispa LCV  
Chispa Texas, a program of LCV/LCVEF  
Christians For The Mountains.org  
CleanEarth4Kids.org  
Climate Hawks Vote  
CO Businesses for a Livable Climate  
Coalition to Protect New York  
Colorado Rising  
Community for Sustainable Energy  
Concerned Health Professionals of Pennsylvania  
Connecticut Citizen Action Group  
Conservation Voters of PA  
Cook Inletkeeper  
Creation Justice Ministries  
Defend the Gulf  
Defenders of Wildlife

Dogwood Alliance  
Don't Waste Arizona  
Earth Action, Inc.  
Earth Ethics, Inc.  
Earthjustice  
Earthworks  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Environment America  
Extinction Rebellion Delaware  
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area  
Extinction Rebellion US  
Food & Water Watch  
For a Better Bayou  
Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice  
FrackBustersNY  
FracTracker Alliance  
Fridays for Future US  
Friends of the Earth US  
Global Choices  
Good Neighbor Steering Committee of Benicia  
Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance  
Green New Deal Network  
Green New Deal Virginia  
Greenpeace USA  
Healthy Gulf  
Healthy Ocean Coalition  
Hispanic Access Foundation  
I-70 Citizens Advisory Group  
Idle No More SF Bay  
Indigenous Environmental Network  
Indivisible Ambassadors  
Indivisible Sacramento  
Indivisible San Francisco  
Indivisible Yolo  
Inland Ocean Coalition  
Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program  
Interfaith Power & Light  
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute  
Larimer Alliance for Health, Safety and Environment  
League of Conservation Voters

Littleton Business Alliance  
Maine Youth Action  
Mayfair Park Neighborhood Association Board  
Mental Health & Inclusion Ministries  
Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action  
Mitzi Mayer Productions  
Montbello Neighborhood Improvement Association  
Movement Rights  
National Ocean Protection Coalition  
Native Movement  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
NC Council of Churches  
NC Interfaith Power & Light  
NC League of Conservation Voters  
New Energy Economy  
New Mexico Climate Justice  
New York Progressive Action Network  
Nicaragua Center for Community Action  
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE)  
North Bronx Racial Justice  
Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS)  
NY4WHALES  
Occupy Bergen County  
Ocean Conservation Research  
Ocean Defense Initiative  
Oceana  
Oil and Gas Action Network  
Oil Change International  
One Earth Sangha  
OneUpAction International  
Pacific Whale Foundation  
Peace Action WI  
Peoples Climate Movement - NY  
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania  
Preserve Montgomery County VA  
Progressives for Climate  
Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights  
Public Citizen  
Putnam Progressives  
Puvunga Wetlands Protectors

RapidShift Network  
Rise to Thrive  
Rise Up WV  
Sacramento Indivisible  
San Joaquin Valley Democratic Club  
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council  
Save EPA (former employees)  
Scientist Rebellion, Turtle Island  
Seattle Aquarium  
SEE (Social Eco Education)  
ShaleshockCNY  
Sierra Club  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team  
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York  
Small Business Alliance  
SoCal 350 Climate Action  
SolaVida  
SOMA Action  
South Carolina Aquarium  
South Seattle climate action network  
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
Southwest Organization for Sustainability  
SouthWings  
Spirit of the Sun, Inc.  
Stand.earth  
Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development  
Sunrise Movement New Orleans  
Surfrider Foundation  
System Change Not Climate Change  
Taproot Earth  
Terra Advocati  
Texas Campaign for the Environment  
The Alaska Center  
The Clean Air Coalition of WNY  
The Enviro Show  
The Green House Connection Center  
The Mind's Eye  
The Ocean Project  
The People's Justice Council

The Phoenix Group  
The Quantum Institute  
The Rachel Carson Council  
The Revolving Door Project  
The Wilderness Society  
Third Act Lawyers  
Third Act Maine  
Third Act Maryland  
Third Act North Carolina Working Group  
Third Act NYC  
Third Act Virginia  
Three Rivers Waterkeeper  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community  
Unitarian, Universalist, action of New Hampshire  
Unite North Metro Denver  
Urban Ocean Lab  
Vermont Climate & Health Alliance  
Vets for peace  
Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center  
Vote Climate  
Wall of Women  
Waterkeeper Alliance  
Waterspirit  
Western Slope Businesses for a Livable Climate  
Wetlands Watch  
WildEarth Guardians  
Womxn from the Mountain  
Working for Racial Equity  
World Wildlife Fund  
Zero Hour  
Zonta Club of Fort Collins

CC:

The Honorable Brenda Mallory, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Liz Klein, Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
John Podesta, Senior Advisor for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation  
Tommy Beaudreau, Deputy Secretary of the Interior  
Laura Daniel Davis, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary - Land and Mineral Management

Steve Feldgus, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

Stephene Harding, Senior Director for Lands, Council on Environmental Quality

Jalonne White-Newsome, Senior Director for Environmental Justice, Council on Environmental Quality

Sara Gonzalez-Rothi, Director for Water, Council on Environmental Quality