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To: Lt. Governor's OfficeLtGov@scstatehouse.gov
Date: 1/17/2018 11:54:36 AM
Subject: Offshore Energy is Critical to Future Energy Security

January 17, 2018

Offshore Energy is Critical to Future Energy Security

Dear Kevin,

The Trump administration's new plan to [expand offshore energy development](#) recognizes that access to offshore resources is critical to future U.S. energy security.

[Government estimates](#) indicate 90 billion barrels of oil and 327 trillion cubic feet of natural gas could be awaiting discovery on the U.S. outer continental shelf (OCS). But existing policy has kept [94 percent](#) of federal offshore waters off limits to responsible exploration. Opening additional areas to development could generate hundreds of thousands of jobs and lead to production gains of more than a million barrels of oil equivalent per day – further reducing dependence on overseas energy.

Whenever offshore energy policy is in the spotlight, two questions arise: Is it safe? And do we really need more energy right now?

The fact is offshore operations are [safer today than ever before](#). Advanced technology, [safety standards](#), best practices, and [regulations](#) are designed to protect workers, the environment and marine life. Since 2010, more than 100 standards were created or strengthened, including for improved safety and environmental management, well design, blowout prevention, and spill response. Offshore

Offshore Development: Safety Above All Else

More than one of every six barrels of oil produced in the United States originates in the Outer Continental Shelf – with 99 percent of that coming from the Gulf of Mexico. Clearly, offshore development is a critical component of U.S. energy security. And it's safer than ever. [Learn more about rigorous regulations, enhanced safety practices, cutting-edge technology, and careful planning that keep offshore operations safe.](#)

Jack Gerard
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