

September 20, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

I would like to lend my voice to the rapidly rising tide of voters in the SC Lowcountry who strongly believe that the proposed Mid- and South-Atlantic Oil and Gas Drilling Program is **"NOT WORTH THE RISK"**! *Please remove South Carolina from the 5-Year Program.*

The importance of our nation's energy independence and the money that offshore oil and gas might bring to the State in terms of investment, jobs and potential revenues are the most frequently mentioned "positives" to support SC's inclusion in the Program.

Unfortunately, in this case, the facts just don't bare this out. First, current estimates for reserves off the coast of SC are pegged at a 6-day supply of oil and gas at current consumption rates. This is a truly a "drop in the bucket" in the context of the US goal to wean itself off its dependence on foreign energy. Second, revenues from tourism, marine fisheries and outdoor recreational activities are conservatively worth more \$10 billion annually to the State. Why jeopardize these proven sources of income just to explore whether another, more limited source of revenue is possible, particularly at the cost of industrializing the SC coast, one of the most beautiful and fragile natural habitats in the world.

Simply put, the tradeoffs between the Program's likely nominal contribution towards our nation's energy 'independence' while irreparably damaging our valuable natural and historical resources is just **NOT WORTH THE RISK!**

Thank you for taking action and taking action now,


Sonia Benz
Isle of Palms, SC