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December 3, 2015

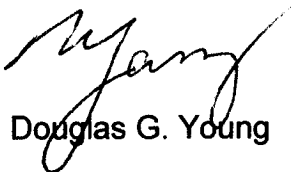
U.S. Senator Tim Scott
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Scott:

On July 20, 2015 I sent you a letter addressing, among other things, my concerns about offshore drilling on the South Carolina Coast. In your prompt reply dated August 17, 2015 you indicated that you were "in strong support of taking advantage of the abundant offshore resources that we have along our federal waters". I would like to re-emphasize my opposition to offshore drilling in general, and specifically near the South Carolina Coast. Because of the considerable revenue derived by the state from shore and nearby ocean related businesses, putting these establishments in jeopardy by drilling for oil that we really do not need at this point makes little sense. The risk to thousands of mostly small business owners from a BP-type oil spill is simply not worth the gamble. Attached are two articles, one from the Post and Courier and another from the Organization "Don't Drill SC-Lowcountry" which illustrate local residents' opposition to the proposed drilling projects. I appeal to you again to reconsider your position on the offshore drilling issue, and advocate for taking a far more conservative approach on this topic.

Thank you again for your service in the United States Senate.

Sincerely,



Douglas G. Young

cc: Governor Nikki Haley ✓

The Post and Courier

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize

Rising tide of opposition to drilling off S.C. coast

Sep 17 2015 12:01 am



In this May 21, 2015 file photo, a bird covered in oil flaps its wings at Refugio State Beach, north of Goleta, Calif. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, File)

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The strength of public opposition to oil drilling off the South Carolina coast is nothing short of overwhelming.

Every major coastal South Carolina municipality now officially opposes drilling in Atlantic waters, along with conservation groups, mayors and other elected officials.

Those opponents include Charleston Mayor Joe Riley and Congressmen Mark Sanford and Jim Clyburn.

But burgeoning grassroots efforts against drilling also reveal a groundswell of support and lend an invaluable voice to those outside the realm of public office.

Don't Drill Lowcountry, an organization founded this summer by five Sullivan's Island residents, filled its Mount Pleasant venue to capacity and beyond at its first meeting this week, for example. Its Facebook page gained more than 1,600 followers in just over three weeks, and similar groups across the East Coast boast thousands of equally dedicated supporters.

But it will take more than Facebook "likes" to protect the Atlantic coastline from the risks of offshore oil.

Despite resolutions and statements of opposition from hundreds of leaders and governments representing more than 1 million East Coast residents, President Barack Obama has remained resolute in plans to open the Atlantic to oil and gas exploration and drilling.

And in South Carolina, Gov. Nikki Haley reaffirmed her support for offshore energy in a statement released this week calling it "critical to our future." She claimed offshore oil would bring jobs, energy independence and security to the state. Sen. Tim Scott has also vocally supported the plan.

Yet contrary to Mrs. Haley's statement, the future of the South Carolina coast depends not on offshore oil but rather on the tourism, recreation and fishing industries that drive the Lowcountry economy and boost our quality of life.

If this ill-advised plan is "critical," it is so only to companies that do seismic exploration, drilling and extraction.

Periodic disasters — including a spill this summer in Santa Barbara, Calif. — confirm that oil drilling remains a risky business despite considerable technological advances implemented in the wake of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon blowout.

In a region where beaches and coastal waters generate billions of dollars in economic impact each year, those risks are simply too grave.

More and more South Carolinians are recognizing that fact and standing up against offshore oil. It's time for the state's leadership to join coastal residents and their elected representatives at the local level.

South Carolinians are already doing plenty on behalf of energy independence through their support of expanded nuclear electric programs and the plutonium reprocessing facility at the Savannah River Site.

Offshore drilling is a losing proposition for coastal South Carolina — for its tourism economy and its environment.

It's time for the rest of the state to recognize the risks.

South Carolina Citizens Say No Offshore Drilling

September 18th, 2015 › [High Risk Energy](#), [Offshore Drilling](#) › [Chris Carnevale](#) ›



It was standing room only as more than 300 Lowcountry residents gathered to stop offshore drilling

An overflow crowd of more than 300 coastal South Carolinian citizens gathered at Patriot's Point in Mt. Pleasant on Tuesday night to stand up to protect the coast from offshore drilling. The [event](#) served as the official launch of a new grassroots citizens group, called [Don't Drill SC-Lowcountry](#).

Don't Drill SC-Lowcountry describes themselves as "a citizen-led non-partisan grassroots movement to protect South Carolina's spectacular coastline from offshore drilling. Don't Drill SC-Lowcountry was formed by a committed group of Sullivan's Islanders passionate about protecting our spectacular coastline, wildlife and natural resources. As part of the anti-drilling movement that has surged across the state, we have joined forces with municipalities, businesses, nonprofits, and individuals to stop oil companies from drilling off the South Carolina Coast."



Yard signs like this one have popped up all over the Charleston area.

The group's launch comes on the heels of the launch of a similar citizens group in the Grand Strand of South Carolina, called SODA-POP (Stop Offshore Drilling in the Atlantic – Prevent Oil Pollution), which has revealed massive opposition to offshore drilling from citizens and businesses from Georgetown, SC to North Myrtle Beach, SC. SODA member JeanMarie Neal was quoted in the Post & Courier as saying that their core members number over 1,500 strong.

Taking a cue from citizens, the local governments elected to represent them have been turning out in force to oppose offshore drilling. South Carolina now has 22 coastal municipalities that have formally opposed offshore drilling and/or seismic testing, representing the entire coastline, from Hilton Head Island to North Myrtle Beach. Increasingly, Republican lawmakers have been sounding the alarm as well. Tuesday's event featured comments from Republican Congressman and former South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford and Republican State Senator Chip Campsen, from Isle of Palms, opposing Atlantic offshore drilling. The message they imparted was clear—the conservative thing to do is to listen to voice of the local communities and not let Washington D.C. force offshore drilling upon us. Senator Campsen remarked that there's nothing liberal about stewarding our incredible God-given environment so that future generations can enjoy it as past generations already have.



SACE staffer Chris Carnevale with Congressman Mark Sanford, gathering to oppose offshore drilling.

A particularly interesting comment came from Senator Campsen about the corrupting influence of lobbying money that would inevitably come to our state capitals if the oil & gas industry were allowed to set up shop along the South Atlantic. Campsen compared the oil & gas industry to the video poker industry, which had a brief existence in South Carolina. He recalled how even though there was strong opposition to video poker, the Legislature could not act to remove it because of the sheer volume of campaign contributions and money spent on lobbying by the video poker companies. Similarly, Senator Campsen warned, if we allow the oil & gas industry to move into our state, every other business and all citizens will lose their influence in the capitol to the industry money that will be inevitable poured in.

While intense opposition is mounting to offshore drilling, citizens are increasingly looking for clean energy alternatives. Just last week, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management unveiled draft areas for offshore wind off of South Carolina's coast, which would allow for responsible offshore energy development in years to come—unlike oil & gas.

The case keeps building that offshore drilling is no good for South Carolina or the other Atlantic states, and we continue to call on Governor Haley to request removal of the waters off of South Carolina's coast from consideration for offshore drilling. .*

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August 17, 2015

Mr. Douglas G. Young, 2015
105 Eagle Court, Chickasaw Point
Madison, SC 29693-6417

Dear Mr. Young:

Thank you for contacting me to express your concerns with offshore energy production in the Atlantic Ocean. While we may not see eye-to-eye on this very important issue, I appreciate your perspective and the opportunity to share my thoughts.

As you know, I have previously introduced legislation that expands America's energy production to offshore Atlantic states to increase responsible offshore energy production, create jobs, grow the economy, lower energy prices, spur new educational training programs, and strengthen America's national security by lessening dependence on dangerous countries for energy.

As a life-long coastal South Carolinian who grew up in North Charleston and served on the Charleston County Council, I have a close, personal relationship with those who live and work near the coastline. Any offshore energy production must not interfere with our state's vibrant tourism and the recreational industries that drive the economies of coastal states such as ours.

And while I certainly understand your concerns about dangers to our prized beaches and tourism industry, seismic testing and offshore drilling are safe ways to explore for and develop energy resources. There are over seven separate federal laws that provide environmental protection for offshore energy production, including: the National Environmental Policy Act; the Clean Air Act; the Coastal Management Act; Marine Mammals Protection Act; Endangered Species Act; Clean Water Act; and the Oil Pollution Act. Moreover, the Obama Administration created the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement for offshore energy production, which will enforce all laws and regulations that govern leasing operations in the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Though nothing is without risk, the Obama Administration has offered multiple lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico since the Deepwater Horizon accident and is approving drilling permits, which very clearly demonstrates they believe offshore drilling can go safely forward.

Furthermore, claims that South Carolinians will not be included or have voice in the offshore oil and natural gas development process are patently false. I proactively engaged South Carolina's communities and stakeholders when developing the SEA Jobs Act to ensure they have an even stronger voice that current law provides. My bill empowers states like South Carolina by providing the states more control over offshore areas closest to their shoreline to help protect coastal

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sightlines by allowing the prohibition of permanently visible drilling infrastructure up to 20 miles from the shoreline.

Under current law, both the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and Coastal Management Act require input and consultation from state, local and military officials and other interested parties or stakeholders during all phases of oil and natural gas development. The Department of Interior also closely coordinates and consults very closely with state and local governments throughout every stage of the development process, from seismic surveying, planning, and leasing to exploration and production.

I am in strong support of taking advantage of the abundant offshore resources that we have along our federal waters. Opening the Atlantic OCS to oil and natural gas production would create jobs and help reduce America's dependence on foreign energy. The American oil and natural gas industry already supports over 9 million jobs and adds \$1 trillion to the U.S. GDP per year. In our own state of South Carolina, oil and natural gas production has the potential to create 7,500 new jobs, have a statewide economic impact of \$2.2 billion annually, and add \$87.5 million in state revenue. Expanding offshore energy production would not only reduce our dependence on foreign oil but would also create the conditions necessary to allow the private sector to innovate, create American jobs, and stimulate the economy.

Again, thank you for sharing your perspective with me; I hope that you will continue to do so in the future. If I can ever be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of my staff.

For more information, please visit my website at www.scott.senate.gov and subscribe to my monthly e-newsletter. I also encourage you to follow me on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SenatorTimScott and Twitter: www.twitter.com/SenatorTimScott for daily updates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Scott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Scott
United States Senator

TS/EL

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I have several concerns about oil drilling in the Atlantic. South Carolina derives considerable revenue and employs several thousand people in coastal related industries such as tourism, fishing, restaurants, visitor rentals, and the list goes on. It is not in the state's best interest to put all of these revenue producing businesses in jeopardy in order to get still more oil. The U.S. oil supply is currently more than adequate and some is actually being exported. The Canadians are also eager to sell their oil here, if the Keystone Pipeline ever gets installed. One of the "benefits" of the new Iranian nuclear agreement, perhaps the only benefit, is that even more oil production will enter the marketplace. It simply does not make sense to put South Carolina's coastline at risk for a BP type oil spill in order to get more oil that we really do not need. It may even be in the U.S. best interest to keep buying Arab oil and let them deplete their reserves, and primary income source, thereby cutting off funding for some of the terrorist activities. Please consider these issues when discussing new oil production off of the South Carolina coast.

Several months ago I contacted you about a solar installation at the Savannah River Site and there may be some confusion about my idea. For several years the Savannah River Site in South Carolina has been a nagging issue across the Southeast concerning its cleanup and eventual disposition. I believe that the property would make an excellent location for a large-scale solar electric generating installation. The federal government already owns the acreage. The lands around the facility certainly cannot be developed in the foreseeable future because of existing pollution. A significant solar installation would require little excavation, thereby causing minimal disturbance to the pollutants in the ground. The Corps of Engineers, located in nearby Savannah, Georgia and already familiar with the Southeast electrical grid, would have the knowledge to manage a solar electric generating installation. Funds raised from selling the electricity generated by the system would not only pay for the equipment and operations but could be used for additional SRS cleanup efforts. The current administration could add another resource to its alternative energy program. There appears to be no losers with this solar development scenario. This proposal does not involve the federal government giving up any of the property or ceasing any other operations. There is certainly some location on the 198,000 acre site where this type of facility could be constructed.

Thank you for your service to the United States of America and the State of South Carolina.

Sincerely

Douglas G. Young

cc: Governor Nikki Haley

sightlines by allowing the prohibition of permanently visible drilling infrastructure up to 20 miles from the shoreline.

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For more information, please visit my website at www.scott.senate.gov and subscribe to my monthly e-newsletter. I also encourage you to follow me on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SenatorTimScott and Twitter: www.twitter.com/SenatorTimScott for daily updates.

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Tim Scott
United States Senator

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July 20, 2015

U.S. Senator Tim Scott
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Scott:

Thank you for attending the God and Country Celebration in Seneca on June 28. It was good to talk with you. I am the person from the Lake Hartwell Association who gave you the lake drought pictures a few years ago.

Below is an article from the Anderson Independent Mail dated July 15, 2015 which details planned searches for oil deposits off of the South Carolina coast.

Aircraft to start hunt for Atlantic oil

By Sean Cockerham
McClatchy Washington Bureau (TNS)

WASHINGTON — An aerial hunt for oil and natural gas reserves in the Atlantic Ocean is poised to launch, a first step in the plan to lease waters off Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia to drilling.

But controversial seismic cannons, considered the best method to find where the oil and gas is, won't be unleashed off the coast until at least next year.

Jim White, president of the geophysical company ARKEX, said Tuesday he's received his permit to start the aerial search. The development will represent the first oil and gas survey in decades for the Atlantic Ocean off the East Coast, which has been kept off limits to drilling since the 1980s.

White's company uses the aircraft to measure variations in the Earth's gravitational field. Known as full tensor gravity gradiometry,



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Liz Kazal of Environment North Carolina speaks at a rally opposing drilling offshore of the Carolinas on Feb. 17 in Wrightsville Beach, N.C.

it evaluates density of the subsurface and identifies areas that could hold oil and natural gas reserves. Little is known about how much oil and gas is off the East Coast.

White told the House energy subcommittee that his findings can help companies decide where to target seismic exploration for

oil and gas in the Atlantic. Those seismic surveys are on hold while the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service weighs the risks to endangered whales and other marine life.

The Obama administration last year opened a huge swath of the Atlantic from Delaware to Florida's Cape Canaveral to seismic

testing. But the companies are still waiting for the necessary permits to get started and expressed frustration that it's taking so long to get the final approval.

"We continue to spend time and money on this process and may never get the permits," said Richie Miller, president of Spectrum Geo Inc., a company that does seismic surveys and sells the data to energy companies.

Miller said the Fish and Wildlife Service told him approval won't come until at least late December. That means the earliest the tests will start is next spring.

Companies will do the work with compressed air guns that blast as loud as a howitzer under the sea, repeated every 10 seconds or so for weeks at a time.

The echoes produce maps that identify oil and gas. While the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management says the seismic tests are safe, they are controversial.