

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 26, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

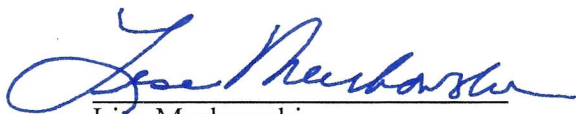
The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act of 1953 declared that “the outer Continental Shelf is a vital national resource reserve held by the Federal Government for the public, which should be made available for expeditious and orderly development, subject to environmental safeguards, in a manner which is consistent with the maintenance of competition and other national needs.” We support many of the steps the Department has taken to strengthen and reinforce the United States’ position as an energy dominant superpower.

Pursuing a new Five Year Program will provide a meaningful review to guarantee that the offshore leasing program contributes to U.S. energy dominance and to ensure some of the most prolific regions of the United States have not been arbitrarily excluded from competitive leasing. We encourage you to carefully review those areas that were not included in the 2017-2022 Five Year Program to ensure that opportunities are not missed. Offshore development has undergone rapid technological innovation ensuring it is cheaper, safer, and provides access to previously out-of-reach areas.

Offshore leasing benefits the economies of all of the states, helps reduce the federal deficit, provides affordable energy to families and businesses, and strengthens our national security. However, offshore projects often have long lead times, so it is important to start today to make sure that the United States is planning for the future to maintain its steady and stable supply of production.

We look forward to working with the Department of the Interior as you advance the new Five Year Leasing program.

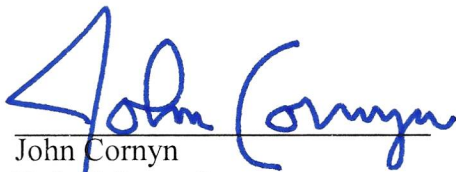
Sincerely,



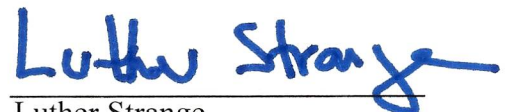
Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



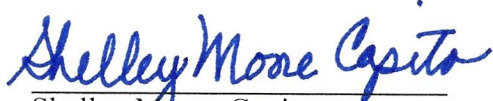
Bill Cassidy
United States Senator



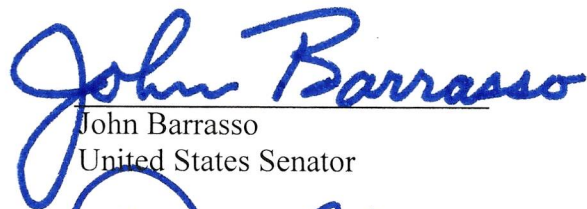
John Cornyn
United States Senator



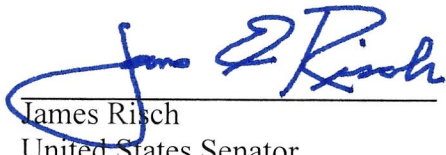
Luther Strange
United States Senator



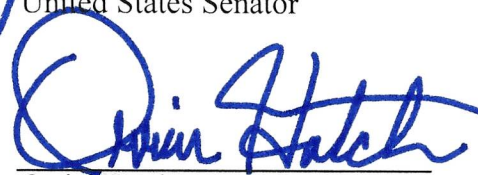
Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



John Barrasso
United States Senator



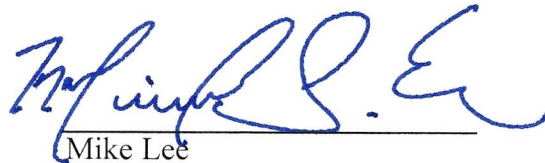
James Risch
United States Senator



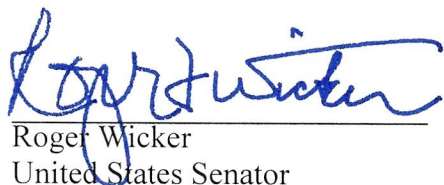
Orrin Hatch
United States Senator



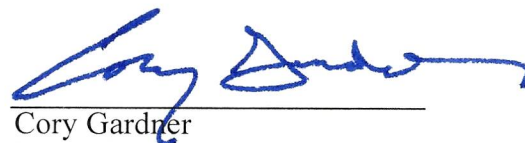
Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Mike Lee
United States Senator



Roger Wicker
United States Senator



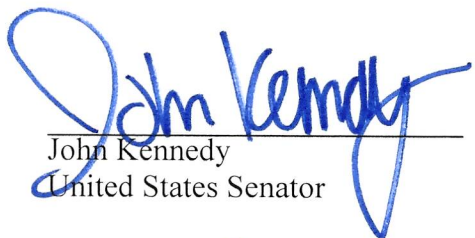
Cory Gardner
United States Senator



James Inhofe
United States Senator



Michael Enzi
United States Senator



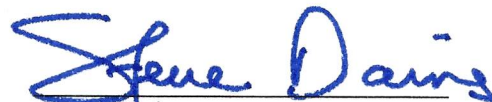
John Kennedy
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



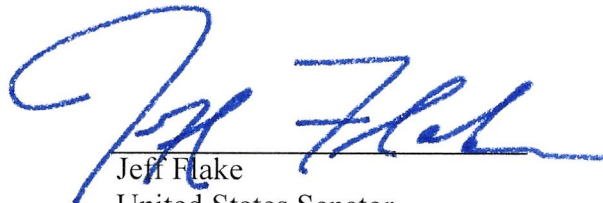
Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Jeff Flake
United States Senator



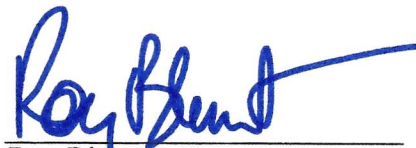
Tom Cotton
United States Senator



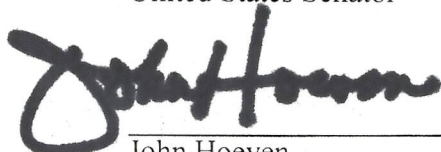
Lamar Alexander
United States Senator



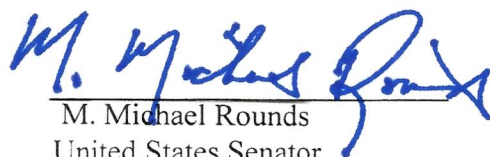
Ted Cruz
United States Senator



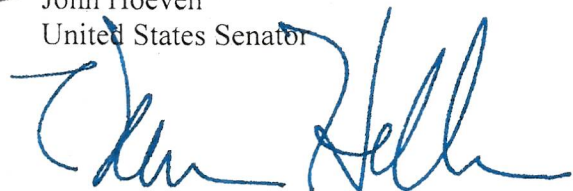
Roy Blunt
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



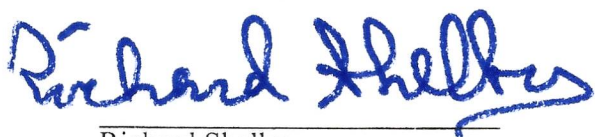
M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator




Dean Heller
United States Senator



John Thune
United States Senator



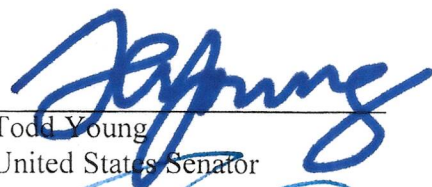
Richard Shelby
United States Senator



Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



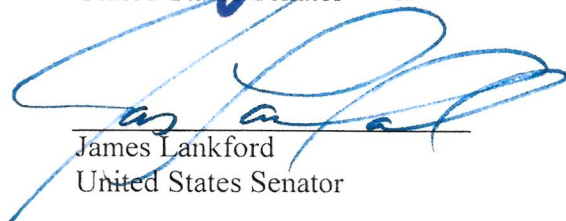
Rob Portman
United States Senator



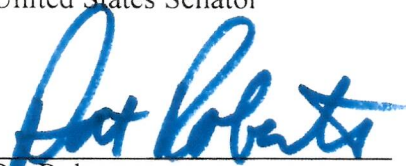
Todd Young
United States Senator



Richard Burr
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



Pat Roberts
United States Senator



Thad Cochran
United States Senator