



January 31, 2012

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
JOHN LAIRD, Secretary for Natural Resources

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Hastings,

I write to express California's opposition to certain provisions within H.R. 3410, which I understand will be heard in the House Natural Resources Committee this week. In particular, we oppose provisions that require the Secretary of the Interior to hold oil and gas lease sales for the Southern California Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and exempts these leases and related development from review under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). The state of California opposes any new oil and gas drilling that would threaten our environment and our coastal economy (tourism, trade, fishing and recreation), worth \$46 billion in economic activity to our state. Further, removing CZMA review for new oil and gas development for the Southern California OCS, sets dangerous precedent. For nearly four decades the CZMA has provided coastal states with a mechanism to work with the federal government to align national priorities for natural resources development on the OCS with state and regional priorities and concerns. As you know, significant provisions of CZMA give states federal consistency authority over a federal activity or federally-permitted activity if the activity affects coastal resources in state waters. It surprises me that this Congress, which expresses a commitment to state's rights, would seek to eliminate the state of California's right to review proposed OCS oil and gas leases and projects that have the potential to impact state waters.

Opposition to drilling off California's coast has been expressed consistently by the last three governors (representing both parties), the California State Legislature, the California Coastal Commission, the California State Lands Commission, the California Ocean Protection Council, and many members of the California congressional delegation. In 2006, and again in 2008, the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health (WCGA), comprised of the governors of California, Oregon and Washington, sent joint letters to both the president and Congress supporting the moratorium on offshore oil and gas leasing and opposing any efforts to lease off the entire West Coast.

We urge your committee and Congress to look for realistic solutions to our nation's energy problems, instead of pursuing a short-term course that would cause significant negative impacts to the environment and would not provide the fundamental economic relief that consumers seek. We look forward to working with you to pursue positive and workable solutions to meet the energy needs of our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Laird".

John Laird
California Secretary for Natural Resources

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Baldwin Hills Conservancy • California Coastal Commission • California Coastal Conservancy • California Conservation Corps • California Tahoe Conservancy
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy • Colorado River Board of California • Delta Protection Commission • Delta Stewardship Council • Department of Boating & Waterways • Department of Conservation
Department of Fish & Game • Department of Forestry & Fire Protection • Department of Parks & Recreation • Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery • Department of Water Resources
Energy Resources, Conservation & Development Commission • Native American Heritage Commission • Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy • San Diego River Conservancy
San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission • San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy • San Joaquin River Conservancy
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy • Sierra Nevada Conservancy • State Lands Commission • Wildlife Conservation Board

