

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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North to the Future

Senator Cathy Giessel Senate District N

July 8, 2014

Ms. Kelly Hammerle
Five Year Program Manager
BOEM (HM-3120)
381 Elden Street
Herndon, Virginia 20170

Dear Ms. Hammerle:

Alaska is fortunate to be an important contributing part of our nation's leading role in global oil and natural gas production. Our nation has the opportunity to continue to be an energy leader if the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) adds currently unavailable offshore areas, such as Alaska, the Atlantic, and the Gulf of Mexico to the upcoming 2017-2022 Five Year Plan.

These additions would further boost our nation's economic and energy security as well as create much needed tax revenue. Alaska has experienced the continued benefit of increased jobs and revenue from oil and natural gas development, and I believe that every state with these natural resources should have the opportunity to benefit from the same economic gain. Equally important, as part of the United States of America, other states should be contributing to our nation's economic and energy growth and not remain stymied by policy barriers.

I am a strong supporter of protecting our environment; Alaska, with its refined application and permitting process, is an example that oil and natural gas can be developed in a way that protects both people and its ecosystems. Therefore, I am confident that energy companies and other states will utilize the same best practices, standards, and regulations that are in place to safely develop offshore oil and natural gas resources.

I applaud our Congressmen for passing a bi-partisan bill, the "Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel an America That Works Act" to support offshore oil and natural gas development and support whatever means are available to move this economic opportunity forward.

I would appreciate your consideration and urge BOEM to include currently unavailable offshore areas, such as Alaska, the Atlantic, and the Gulf of Mexico in the upcoming 2017-2022 Five Year Plan. We must continue to generate jobs and revenue to rejuvenate our nation's economy and decrease our reliance on foreign energy sources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy Giessel".

Senator Cathy Giessel

Chair Senate Resources Committee | Vice Chair State Affairs | Vice Chair Community & Regional Affairs

Senator.Cathy.Giessel@akleg.gov