



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

Roy Cooper
Governor

20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-0301

September 15, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I was surprised last week to learn of your Presidential Memorandum extending your administration's moratorium on oil drilling for the next ten years for the Atlantic waters off Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. I am deeply concerned and disappointed to learn that you did not include North Carolina in the moratorium, despite specifically mentioning that our state would receive benefits from this order and should be congratulated. You said that day that "this protects your beautiful Gulf and your beautiful ocean and it will for a long time to come." North Carolina's Atlantic coast deserves the same protection as Florida, Georgia and South Carolina.

As I have previously shared with your Interior Department, offshore drilling threatens North Carolina's coastal economy and environment and offers our state minimal economic benefit. Accepted science tells us that there is little, if any, oil worth drilling for off North Carolina's coast, and the risks of offshore drilling far outweigh the benefits.

North Carolina's coastal tourism generates \$3 billion annually and supports more than 30,000 jobs, as people from all over come to enjoy our beaches, restaurants, and recreational fishing. Commercial fishing brings in another \$95 million to our economy each year. North Carolina's 300 plus miles of coastline, 2.3 million acres of estuarine waters, and over 10,000 miles of estuarine shoreline are important assets which contribute to a robust state and national economy, and we cannot afford to endanger them.

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We know that oil spills do not respect state lines. North Carolina's history of hurricanes should give us all pause before contemplating opening the waters off our coast to drilling, as the risk of storm damage to drilling and production equipment and subsequent spread of oil to other states on the Atlantic Coast is ever more likely, especially as climate change causes increasingly severe storms.

Opposition to offshore drilling is bipartisan and widespread across our state. Within North Carolina, forty-five of our local communities have adopted formal resolutions against expansion of offshore drilling. I have joined with my fellow Governors up and down the Atlantic Coast to ask your Administration for the same protections now afforded Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. I ask you to include North Carolina's coast in the moratorium just announced.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roy Cooper

RAC/sm/jw