



May 2, 2025

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: House Natural Resources Reconciliation Legislation

Dear Chairman Westerman:

The National Ocean Policy Coalition ("Coalition"), an organization of diverse interests representing sectors and entities that span the Blue Economy, welcomes the inclusion of language in Title VIII of the reconciliation bill to ensure future robust offshore energy leasing activity.

As an organization representing sectors and entities that span the Blue Economy, the Coalition supports the development and implementation of sound, balanced ocean policies that recognize and enhance the critical role that our oceans, coastal areas, Great Lakes, and marine and terrestrial ecosystems play in our nation's economy, national security, culture, health, and well-being while conserving the natural resources and marine habitat of our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes regions for current and future generations. Coalition members include interests ranging from fishing and energy to waterborne transportation and beyond that depend on ocean access to provide the nation with economic and societal benefits, including secure, reliable, and affordable energy.

For decades, domestic offshore energy development has successfully co-existed alongside a myriad of other uses, as underscored in part by the history of fishing and energy activity alongside one another in the vicinity of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, a diving paradise teeming with coral. Ensuring robust offshore energy leasing activity -- including in the Gulf of America that provides 14 percent of the nation's oil production -- will help promote U.S. economic growth, global competitiveness, and national security.

In closing, the Coalition strongly supports provisions supporting robust offshore energy leasing in Title VIII of the reconciliation bill, and looks forward to working with you and your colleagues as the process continues after markup.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Belcher", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jack Belcher
Managing Director