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August 28, 2009

Ms. Renee Orr  
Mr. James F. Bennett  
U.S. Minerals Management Service  
381 Elden Street  
Herndon, Virginia 20170

**RE: Support for the 2010-2015 Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program**

Dear Ms. Orr and Mr. Bennett:

On behalf of its 24,000 members and customers, representing the spectrum of Pennsylvania industry, business, and commercial enterprises, the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry writes in support of the Draft Proposed Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2010-2015 (DPP) by the U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS). By opening up new offshore areas in the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico and offshore Alaska to oil & natural gas development, and allowing for the possibility of offshore alternative energy development, the DPP will provide the nation with the opportunity to responsibly produce our own energy, an effort that will significantly benefit our economy by creating domestic jobs and decreasing our dependence on foreign energy.

Destabilizing price volatility is at the core of some of the country's most pressing security and economic issues. Unfortunately, increasingly unstable energy prices are likely to continue to rise as supplies tighten and long-term speculators impact the market as they face troubling global energy realities. Industries, businesses, and citizens across the country have witnessed first-hand significant job loss and continue to suffer from a stagnant economy.

Thus, it is more important than ever that the federal government allow access to all offshore energy supplies made available in the DPP. Offering new lease opportunities ultimately provides the Obama administration with maximum flexibility to properly utilize our domestic energy resources, while responding to various communities who have shown a keen interest in developing their natural resources.

Simply put, providing for sensible, effective energy policy that safely develops our resources will help industries that rely on crude oil and natural gas, strengthen our national security, and supply much needed jobs as we open new areas to development and spur economic growth.

Additionally, we support MMS continuing to move forward the 2007-2012 Leasing Program for all available leasing areas, including the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic and offshore Alaska, while working to approve and finalize the new DPP for 2010-2015.



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In conclusion, we are pleased to see that MMS has opened up the Five-Year Program to include new leasing areas, while accurately acknowledging the need for the United States to begin responsibly developing the abundant energy resources located offshore. There is no doubt that all forms of energy will be needed going forward in order to meet the growing energy demand of our state and nation. As the largest broad-based business advocacy association in Pennsylvania our members are impacted by skyrocketing energy prices, and we believe that the DPP is an important step in creating a robust national energy policy and securing our energy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Floyd Warner', written in a cursive style.

Floyd Warner  
President