February 28, 2018

Ms. Kelly Hammerle
Chief, National Oil and Gas Leasing Program
Development and Coordination Branch
Leasing Division
Office of Strategic Resources
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD)
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166-9216

Docket ID: BOEM-2017-0074

Dear Ms. Hammerle:

As you prepare the 2019-2024 Five-Year Offshore Leasing Program, we urge you to embrace a true all-of-the-above energy policy by allowing for more leasing, exploration and development of potential U.S. offshore oil and natural gas resources. If more areas are opened to offshore exploration and development, the resulting economic activity and energy production could do great things for our nation.

A federal energy policy that takes full advantage of all domestic energy sources including continued offshore development in the Gulf of Mexico and expanded access into new areas of the eastern Gulf of Mexico, Alaska, and Atlantic will help keep the U.S. energy renaissance going. Offshore oil and gas exploration is now safer than ever. Our nation needs to take full advantage of the potential benefits that continued and expanded offshore exploration and production can bring to the U.S. and its citizens.

Throughout the country, many sectors of our nation’s economy will reap the positive benefits of abundant energy sources. Businesses small and large will see new opportunities and will help create additional jobs. In addition, a robust domestic energy policy will support stable energy prices, help meet the anticipated rising energy demand, bring in additional government revenues and strengthen our energy and national security. We hope that the 2019-2024 Five-Year Offshore Leasing Program will allow us to realize the full potential that domestic offshore oil and natural gas, as part of a true all-of-the-above energy policy, can bring to the country.

Sincerely,

Associated Petroleum Industries of Pennsylvania
Manufacturer and Business Association
Marcellus Shale Coalition
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry
Pennsylvania Independent Oil and Gas Association
Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association