



CONSUMERS ALLIANCE FOR  
Affordable Natural Gas

February 22, 2005

Honorable Gale Norton  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20249

Dear Secretary Norton:

It is our understanding that the Department of Interior will shortly issue a Request for Comments in connection with its development of a new 5-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007-2012 (including those areas not currently under moratoria but also not included in the 2002-07 Five Year Plan). The primary consequence of this 5-Year Program will determine the size, timing, and location of all oil and gas lease sales on the OCS for the years 2007-2012.

Our message and request is simple: Please make in order comments from all interested parties on the appropriateness of leasing in both moratoria and non-moratoria areas on the OCS. Further, we believe that the Department should solicit comments on the following two subjects:

- (1) Whether it is possible to issue natural gas only leases in moratoria areas on the OCS during this five-year timeframe; and
- (2) Whether governors of coastal states should be authorized to petition the Department for (a) current estimates of natural gas inventories in any moratoria area adjacent to or lying seaward of their coastlines and (b) whether said inventories should be removed from any applicable moratoria.

The Consumers Alliance for Affordable Natural Gas (CAANG) endeavors to represent the interests of industrial, commercial, consumer, civic, and non-profit users of natural gas by drawing attention to the national crisis caused by the escalating imbalance between supply and demand of this precious resource. The mission of CAANG is urge the implementation of policies that results in stable and globally competitive natural gas prices. These policies, we believe, must be premised upon fuel diversity, conservation and efficiency, improved transmission and storage, and the environmentally respectful development of new sources of domestic supply.

On behalf of CAANG, I appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Geoff Hurwitz  
Chairman,  
Consumers Alliance for Affordable Natural Gas