



Randall Luthi
President

**NATIONAL
OCEAN
INDUSTRIES
ASSOCIATION**

1120 G Street, NW
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005
Tel 202-347-6900
Fax 202-347-8650
www.noia.org

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The Honorable Mac Thornberry
The Honorable Adam Smith
Committee on Armed Services
2216 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Committee Leaders:

As you prepare to draft the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, the National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA) recommends legislative changes to expand the ability of the United States Government to plan and prepare for energy production from the offshore regions of the United States Territories.

Congress has previously considered, but failed to enact, legislation to expand the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act to include the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) offshore the Territories of the United States. This change has been supported by the Bush, Obama, and now Trump Administrations. We encourage you to take this action as part of the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act. By doing so, Congress would provide a statutory structure for the management of the renewable and traditional energy and mineral resources that are not currently covered by existing law.

Unfortunately, the territories have been neglected in this regard because no federal agency actually has the authority for overseeing energy, including renewable energy, and mineral development in the EEZ offshore. In addition, the Federal government is unable to evaluate potential resources in conjunction with the territorial governments for potential resources until OCSLA is extended to these areas. Clarifying the Secretary of the Interior's authority and responsibility under OCSLA will provide the support and opportunity for a comprehensive process for planning and developing any conventional energy, renewable energy and mineral resources in coordination with the territories. This will support America's military mission both in providing energy security to our nation but additionally by providing additional potential energy resource sources to military facilities and operations in our nation's territories.

America's offshore energy industries are ready to increase our contribution to America's national security. For example, offshore wind can potentially provide significant investment and alternative energy security to American bases in Guam, American Samoa or Puerto Rico. This private investment can only be made possible through sound public

planning by the Department of the Interior in conjunction with the territorial governments and interested partners.

We hope that you will consider these changes and help America's offshore industries bring jobs, investment and energy security to the process of building a better more secure tomorrow for the United States and our territories.

Sincerely,



Randall Luthi
President

CC: Rep. Bordallo
Rep. Sablan
Rep. Radewagen
Rep. Gonzalez Colon
Rep. Plaskett