



April 30, 2019

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

The Honorable Jenniffer González Colón
1609 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Chairman Grijalva, Ranking Member Bishop and Rep. González Colón,

Thank you for bringing the Offshore Wind for Territories Act (HR 1014) before the House Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday, May 1, 2019. The National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA) gives our strongest support for this legislation expanding the jurisdiction of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) to the waters off of the territories of the United States. This is a change to American law that is long overdue.

For too long, the territories have been neglected in this 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 offshore energy in coordination with the territories.

America's offshore energy industries are ready to contribute to the recovery and rebuilding of Puerto Rico, Northern Marianas, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For example, offshore wind can potentially provide significant investment into the recovery process by providing both alternative generation and significant investment in onshore infrastructure. This private investment, only made possible through sound public planning by the Department of the Interior in conjunction with the territorial government, can both spur economic recovery and also offset federal recovery investment. In addition, floating wind development provides a tremendous opportunity for the United States Navy to meet its energy requirements as we prepare to expand our nation's military footprint on Guam.

Simply stated, we thank you for your work on this legislation and urge all members of the Committee and eventually all of Congress to support this legislation. Passage of this legislation will help America's offshore industries to bring jobs, investment and energy to the process of building a better tomorrow for the territories.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randall Luthi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randall Luthi
President