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The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Bishop,

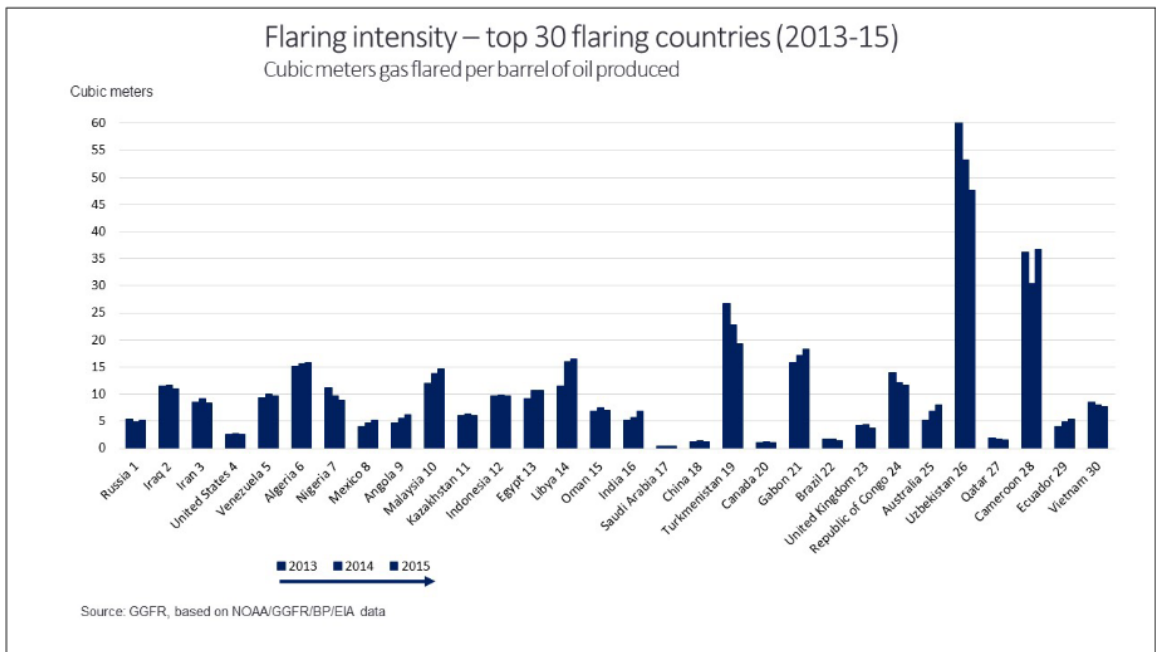
I write on behalf of the National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA) to express our deep concerns with H.R. 5435, the American Public Lands and Waters Climate Solution Act of 2019, particularly Section 3. Should the bill proceed in its current form we would urge strident opposition from all Members of Congress interested in promoting American energy security.

NOIA and our membership are committed to promoting solutions that provide the energy vital for lifting society in an environmentally sustainable way, and this includes responsible development of offshore oil, natural gas and wind resources. In fact, NOIA is somewhat unique in that it does not merely represent a single industry but rather all aspects of offshore energy, which is why we are strong advocates of the burgeoning offshore wind space and support renewable energy deployment.

However, it is also the case that our federal waters on the outer continental shelf are critically important to the safe and reliable development of oil and gas resources. Our members produce roughly 1/6th of America's oil domestically, supply that would be hard to replace without relying on foreign sources such as Venezuelan crude.

Further, the production of oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico is some of the cleanest, most environmentally friendly oil and gas resource development possible. The chart below from the Department of the Interior is an example of why the U.S. should be the number one choice for the development of oil and natural gas resources. While this chart was released in 2017, we would also note that EIA data released just three weeks ago¹ confirms that venting and flaring in the Gulf of Mexico have trended slightly downwards in the last decade, despite record production.

¹"Federal Offshore-- Gulf of Mexico Natural Gas Vented and Flared." *U.S. Energy Information Agency*, 31 Jan. 2020, www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/hist/n9040fx2a.htm.



Source: *Venting and Flaring Research Study Report*. BSEE, Jan. 2017, www.bsee.gov/sites/bsee.gov/files/5007aa.pdf, Pg. 27

Clearly, if a bill designed to restrict oil and gas production in federal waters such as H.R. 5435 became law there is significant potential it would simply shift production to other regions of the world less concerned with environmental protection and fugitive methane emissions. Given this—as written—the bill before this Committee has the potential to *accelerate* the emissions of greenhouse gases.

With U.S. offshore oil and natural gas production, we have a balanced approach that ensures U.S. energy security and national security through home grown energy production that is among the cleanest in the world. We look forward to working with you on what I hope are the shared goals of ever-improving quality of life for all Americans, including both energy security *and* environmental protection.

Very respectfully,

Erik Milito

President

Cc: Members of the Committee on Natural Resources