



August 10, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
H-305 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman, House Interior Approp. Sub.
2007 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

NATIONAL
OCEAN
INDUSTRIES
ASSOCIATION

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Chairman Calvert:

As the House Appropriations Committee considers the FY 2018 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (HR 3354), NOIA respectfully urges the committee to remove language which would restrict the ability of the Department of the Interior (DOI) to administer offshore wind leases located within 24 nautical miles of the State of Maryland shoreline during FY 2018 (Sec. 438).

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NOIA is the only national trade association representing all segments of the offshore industry with an interest in the exploration and production of both traditional and renewable energy resources on the U.S. OCS. The NOIA membership comprises more than 325 companies engaged in a variety of business activities, including production, drilling, engineering, marine and air transport, offshore construction, equipment manufacturing and supply, telecommunications, finance and insurance, and renewable energy.

We are concerned that the language included in Section 438 would violate the lease and contract sanctity which is critical to the responsible and timely development of offshore energy resources. The significant investment of capital, resources and manpower needed to develop offshore energy resources requires a lawful and stable process and should not be subject to threat through the annual appropriations process. As you can see from the enclosed map produced by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the proposed language would impact all or a majority of three lease areas in the OCS impacting the ability of the leaseholders to proceed with permitting on their leases. Once a lease is issued, DOI has an obligation, through contractual commitment, with the lease holder to proceed in an orderly process to approve siting, production and development of the lease. By restricting funds for DOI to work with the leaseholder as a partner, the amendment threatens the sanctity of the lease contract made with DOI and the investments and costs faced by the lease developer.

Therefore we encourage you to work to remove this language from the bill during floor consideration by the full House to ensure that the House is not left on record supporting the violation of lease rights in the final bill that passes the House. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

Tim Charters
Senior Director, Govt. and Political Affairs

Attachment: BOEM Map
Cc: Ranking Member Nita Lowey
Ranking Member Betty McCollum
Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop
Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee Chairman Paul Gosar
Rep. Andy Harris