



Institute for
Policy Integrity

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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STATEMENT ON OFFSHORE LEASING PROPOSAL

Today, the Trump administration released its draft proposal for the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program, seeking to vastly expand offshore oil and gas drilling and open up many currently protected areas to drilling.

Michael Livermore, senior advisor at the Institute for Policy Integrity and a professor at University of Virginia School of Law, has released the following statement:

“The administration has chosen a ‘drill everywhere’ approach, but even the analysis included in this proposal makes clear that the choice isn’t rational. Based purely on price uncertainty, many areas up for leasing in this proposal are on the border of being uneconomic. Drilling in sensitive areas also entails enormous environmental uncertainties, which the agency did not attempt to quantify. Once the risks are accounted for, it is clear that ‘drill everywhere’ can’t be the result of a reasoned balancing of costs and benefits.”

Jayni Hein, policy director at the Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law, has released the following statement:

“Opening up nearly all offshore areas for oil and gas leasing is a public land giveaway in which citizens and coastal communities bear the significant risks of a major oil spill, while receiving minimal benefits. In addition, tying up large portions of the Outer Continental Shelf for fossil fuel extraction prevents these areas from being used for offshore wind production and other, more strategic uses.

This proposal is a terrible deal for taxpayers. It would flood the market with more offshore tracts for lease, all but ensuring that they sell for bargain prices with little to no competition. In Interior's last offshore lease sale, held this past summer, the vast majority of tracts had only one bidder.”

Livermore and Hein are available for interviews on this proposal and related issues.

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