

The Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska (Chair)
The Honorable Bobby Jindal, Governor of Louisiana
The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of Texas
The Honorable Phil Bryant, Governor of Mississippi
The Honorable Robert Bentley, Governor of Alabama
The Honorable Nikki Haley, Governor of South Carolina
The Honorable Robert McDonnell, Governor of Virginia
The Honorable Pat McCrory, Governor of North Carolina



March 6, 2013

Ms. Sally Jewell
Interior Secretary Designate
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Jewell,

On behalf of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Governors Coalition, I congratulate you on the nomination to become the next Secretary of the Interior. As you move forward with the confirmation process, the Coalition looks forward to hearing your views on offshore energy development, particularly your understanding of how OCS development affects coastal states. More importantly, we encourage you to utilize the Coalition as a source of information and counsel and to consider us as partners in your decision making.

The Outer Continental Shelf Governors Coalition, formed in 2011, consists of eight coastal state governors who support policies that encourage an expansion of American energy, particularly U.S. offshore energy resources. The mission of the Coalition is to promote a more constructive dialogue among the coastal state governors and the federal government regarding the importance of offshore energy development to coastal states.

With a change in leadership at the Department of the Interior, the Coalition sees an opportunity to build a new, more positive dialogue with the Department on issues affecting the level and pace of offshore energy development. As we begin this journey together, we would first like to address some of the issues important to the Coalition.

At a recent meeting, the Coalition reaffirmed our belief that coastal states have an inherent stake in offshore energy development, including both traditional oil and natural gas and renewable tidal and wind resources. Coastal states not only benefit from the supply of safe, American energy, but also from the jobs, revenue, and other economic benefits that domestic energy production generates. Moreover, coastal states must ensure that any offshore activity proceeds in an environmentally safe and sustainable manner in order to protect coastlines and coastal communities.

As such, the Coalition strongly supports expansion of revenue sharing to all coastal states for energy produced off its shores. Revenue sharing provides states with resources to fund coastal restoration

and conservation and fund other essential state services. Congress is currently evaluating legislation that could expand revenue sharing to coastal states outside of the Gulf of Mexico region. We strongly hope that you will support congressional efforts to create equitable revenue sharing for all coastal states.

Second, the Coalition believes that a more consistent, efficient permitting system for offshore operators will provide a more predictable investment climate for economic growth. We request a renewed focus in the Department of the Interior on timely, consistent decision-making regarding permitting.

Finally, the Coalition supports expanded access to new offshore areas for traditional and renewable energy development. Several members of our Coalition have long advocated for expanded leasing in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, Mid- and South-Atlantic, and Alaska. While we are very pleased with the Administration's progression on Atlantic offshore wind development, similar momentum is needed in regards to offshore oil and natural gas. Expanding leasing opportunities now will encourage the private investment necessary to move forward with seismic surveying and additional infrastructure development and deployment.

Your leadership at the Department of the Interior will be critical to advancing America's energy revolution and promoting a sound regulatory environment for expanded, safe energy production. Your impressive business acumen and leadership qualities have prepared you to guide the Department through an era of new and exciting opportunities for the United States.

We look forward to working with you to advance America's energy security and economic future.

Best regards,



Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska
Chair, OCS Governors Coalition

cc: The Honorable Bobby Jindal, Governor of Louisiana
 The Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of Texas
 The Honorable Phil Bryant, Governor of Mississippi
 The Honorable Robert Bentley, Governor of Alabama
 The Honorable Nikki Haley, Governor of South Carolina
 The Honorable Robert McDonnell, Governor of Virginia
 The Honorable Pat McCrory, Governor of North Carolina
 The Honorable Dan Sullivan, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources
 Kip Knudson, Director of Federal/State Relations, Office of the Governor