

May 2, 2011

Dear Governor:

As you know, energy is the lifeblood of the American economy. Families, farms and businesses across the country rely on affordable, reliable energy to meet their everyday needs, and domestic energy production sustains millions of well-paying jobs across all the states. As Governors, we support policies that encourage an American energy expansion with all forms of energy production – both onshore and offshore.

Because of the importance of the offshore energy issues for our states, we are writing to ask you to join us in forming an **Outer Continental Shelf Governors Coalition** to promote a constructive dialogue among the coastal state governors and the federal government on these important issues.

Over the last several decades, advances in offshore oil and gas production technologies coupled with effective policies adopted by both state governments and the federal government have enabled the oil and gas industry to create hundreds of thousands of high paying jobs. Additional jobs in every sector of our economy – manufacturing, agriculture, chemicals, steel, transportation – are also directly tied to our ability to secure affordable and reliable transportation fuels and natural gas supplies.

Currently, all federal decisions regarding exploration and production must be made in consultation with affected states. In recent months, however, the federal government has taken sweeping actions regarding offshore oil and gas activities with little consultation with the states. Unfortunately, many of these federal actions have been in conflict with our states' and citizens interests.

For these reasons, we are forming the OCS Governors Coalition as a mechanism to foster an appropriate dialogue between the coastal states and the Administration and ensure that future actions are done with adequate state input. We are inviting you to join the coalition.

Representatives from the States of Louisiana, Texas, Virginia, Mississippi and Alaska will hold a formational meeting and announce the OCS Governors Coalition in Houston on Monday, May 2, 2011 during the Offshore Technology Conference.

Respectfully,



Bobby Jindal
Governor of Louisiana



Rick Perry
Governor of Texas



Haley Barbour
Governor of Mississippi



Sean Parnell
Governor Alaska