

FRANK A. LOBIONDO
2ND DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

TRANSPORTATION
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HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3002

ARMED SERVICES
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HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT
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CHAIRMAN,
CIA
EMERGING THREATS

January 10, 2018

Dr. Walter Cruickshank
Acting Director
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dr. Cruickshank:

I am writing to request that a public meeting be held in Cape May County, New Jersey to discuss The Department of the Interior's Draft Proposed Plan (DPP) for a new National Outer Continental Shelf Program for 2019-2024.

As the Trump Administration considers a new plan to drill for oil and gas off the coast of New Jersey, it is imperative you hear from residents, businesses and local officials in communities along South Jersey's coast. The DPP released on January 4, 2018, raises a number of serious concerns that should be brought to the Administration's attention, discussed and addressed before any plan is finalized. These concerns can only be properly voiced by those on the ground who are directly impacted by the Administration's proposed plan. This will be a great opportunity for the Department of the Interior to hear from residents, businesses and local elected officials in Cape May County and across the Jersey Shore.

The DPP poses serious economic and environmental risks to the marine wildlife and fish populations that our commercial fishermen rely upon for their livelihood, and pristine state beaches that support our tourism industry. As you know, together with both commercial and recreational fishing activities, tourism remains an economic driver along New Jersey's 130 mile shoreline and brings in approximately \$45 billion per year.

I strongly encourage you to schedule a public meeting in Cape May County or elsewhere in South Jersey to hear firsthand our serious concerns. If there is anything I can do to help facilitate this request, please reach out to Nicholas Down in my Washington D.C. office at 202-225-6572 or nicholas.down@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank A. LoBiondo".

Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress

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