



September 17, 2009

Ms. Renee Orr
Mr. James F. Bennett
U.S. Minerals Management Service
381 Elden Street
Herndon, Virginia 20170

RE: Support for the 2010-2015 Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program

Dear Ms. Orr and Mr. Bennett:

On behalf of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, I am writing in strong support of the Draft Proposed Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2010-2015 (DPP) by the U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS). Opening new areas off the coast of Virginia to oil and natural gas development will provide both Virginia and our nation with the opportunity to responsibly become more energy independent and promote economic recovery.

Currently, Virginia ranks behind only California in states that import electricity. While there is considerable activity here aimed at encouraging the development and production of alternative forms of energy, fossil fuels will continue to be the major energy supplier of energy for the foreseeable future. The Minerals Management Service estimates that the Sale 220 lease sale could contain 1.14 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 130 million barrels of oil. Developing these resources would help Virginia address its future energy needs and also create thousands of new jobs in our Commonwealth and spur our economic recovery.

The United States currently imports over 58% of the oil consumed in our country. Our nation's dependence of foreign sources of energy creates long-term security, economic development and environmental concerns. The importance of seeking domestic solutions to our rising energy needs is paramount. We can begin to address these issues through the pursuit of safe exploration of natural energy resources off the shores of our coastlines.

Exploration of offshore sources of energy is an important part of a program that would promote energy independence, economic recovery and allow for a transition to an economy more heavily reliant on alternative forms of energy. Such an approach would help industries that rely on crude oil and natural gas, strengthen our national security and supply much needed jobs as we open new areas to development and spur economic growth.

Staffed by...



David E. Anderson
804.228.4508

David A. Johnson
804.228.4512

Josh Myers
804.228.4502

Advantus Strategies, LLC
www.advantusstrategies.com

In conclusion, I urge you to move forward with the leasing program as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David E. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David E. Anderson
Environment and Energy Consultant
Virginia Chamber of Commerce