

November 10, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sale 257

Dear President Biden:

The undersigned 267 Indigenous, frontline, environmental, business, political, and social justice organizations write with an urgent plea to cancel Lease Sale 257 in the Gulf of Mexico so the Department of Interior can consider the latest scientific evidence on climate change and the impacts of lease sales to the Gulf's environment, wildlife, and communities, as it is legally required to do. You promised to address the climate crisis with the urgency it deserves, and in Glasgow, you assured the world that your plans to cut emissions are a fait accompli, not mere rhetoric. Selling more than 80 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas development just days after the international climate talks makes a mockery of those commitments.

The sale shockingly offers more area than the Trump Administration initially proposed and ranks as the largest offshore lease sale in U.S. history. Ironically, the lease sale was announced as the deadly Hurricane Ida made landfall on the Louisiana coast, wreaking havoc on the same frontline communities your Administration committed to help heal by stopping the deep-rooted injustices perpetrated by the oil and gas industry and helping build clean, sustainable local economies. Reversing course on climate change must start here, and it must start now.

In deciding to hold Lease Sale 257, your administration relied on outdated and irrational environmental analysis. Lease Sale 257 will result in the production of up to 1.12 billion barrels and 4.4 trillion cubic feet of fossil fuels over the next 50 years. However, your administration outrageously concluded that the sale will not contribute to climate change. The decision documents also failed to account for significant new information on climate change and impacts of drilling activity on frontline communities and protected species. Your administration has existing authority to defer Lease Sale 257, correct these unlawful assumptions, and revisit the decision to lease more of the Gulf to drilling.

The Gulf of Mexico continues to be treated as a sacrificial zone to oil and gas development, disproportionately harming local communities already at the frontlines of climate disaster, wreaking havoc on the environment, and contributing to global climate change. The region's communities are frontline Black, Indigenous and people of color and low-income families who have been living with degraded air, land, and water for decades. It is beyond time that the federal government stops ignoring this grave injustice.

There is still time to keep your promise to end new leases on public lands and waters and address environmental racism. Please utilize your existing authority and defer Lease Sale 257 to reckon with the latest evidence and properly estimate and acknowledge the full range of impacts from lease sales in this region.

We welcome your response. To arrange further dialogue with the signers, please contact Hallie Templeton, Legal Director and Senior Campaigner at Friends of the Earth (htempleton@foe.org).

Thank you,

Gulf of Mexico Organizations:

350 New Orleans
350 Pensacola
A Community Voice
Carrizo Comecrudo Tribal Nation of Texas
Catskill Mountainkeeper
Chama Radio
Chispa Texas
Christians Caring for Creation
Citizens for Clean Air and Water in Freeport Tx
Clean Energy Action
Climate Reality Project, New Orleans Chapter
Coalition Against Death Alley
Concerned Citizens of St. John
Earth Action, Inc.
Environmental Integrity Project
Extinction Rebellion New Orleans
Greater New Orleans Interfaith Climate Coalition
Indigenous Peoples of the Coastal Bend Justice & Beyond

Karankawa Kadla Gulf Coast Tribe of Texas
Louisiana Bucket Brigade
Nature Coast Conservation
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment
Operation HomeCare, Inc.
Panhandle Watershed Alliance
Peak plastic foundation
Progress Florida
Rise St. James
San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper
Save Rio Grande Valley
Society of Native Nations
SouthWings
Stop SPOT & Gulflink, Save Our Gulf Coast
Texas Campaign for the Environment
Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility
The CLEO Institute
Turtle Island Restoration Network

Ally Organizations:

198 Methods
350 Bay Area
350 Eugene
350 Hawaii
350 Humboldt
350 Maine
350 Seattle
350 Tacoma
350 Triangle
350 US
350 Ventura County Climate Hub
350 Corvallis
350 Deschutes
350 Wenatchee
A Call to Actions
ABCGR Creation Collaborative
Action Center on Race and the Economy
Action for the Climate Emergency
Adorers of the Blood of Christ, US Region
Alliance for a Green Economy
Alliance for the Wild Rockies
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Animals Are Sentient Beings, Inc.
Aquamarine Studio
Arizona Chapter, Physicians for Social Responsibility
Athens County's Future Action Network
Aytzim: Ecological Judaism
Baltimore, MD Phil Berrigan Memorial Chapter
Veterans For Peace
Battle Creek Alliance
Be The Change - Colorado
Belize Federation of Fishers
Bergen County Green Party
Bergen County Immigration Strategy Group
Berks Gas Truth
Better Building Institute Inc. (nfp)
Between the Waters
Big Reuse
Bold Alliance
BXE Beyond Extreme Energy
California Communities Against Toxics
Cape Downwinders
Connecticut Citizen Action Group
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for International Environmental Law

CEO Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm
CERBAT.US
Christians For The Mountains
Church Women United in New York State
Citizens Awareness Network
Citizens Committee for Flood Relief
Citizens' Environmental Coalition
Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two
Ciudadanos Del Karso
Cleveland Owns
Climate Hawks Vote
Climate Reality Project Boca Chapter
CO Dem. Party - Energy & Environment Initiative
Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipeline - NJ
Colorbrightongreen
Concerned Health Professionals of New York
Concerned Residents of Oxford
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Cook Inletkeeper
Cooperative Energy Futures
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
Divest LA
Don't Gas the Meadowlands Coalition
Don't Waste Arizona
Down East Coal Ash Environmental and Social Justice Coalition
Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition
Earthbilt
EARTHDAY.ORG
Echotopia LLC
Eco-Socialism Working Group, Boston DSA
ecoAmerica
EKOenergy ecolabel
Elders Climate Action
Empower our Future - Colorado
Endangered Habitats League
Energy Smart Colorado
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin
Environmental Caucus of Florida non partisan
Environmental Protection Information Center
Extinction Rebellion San Francisco Bay Area
Fal Energy Partnership
Fayetteville Police Accountability Community Taskforce
Food & Water Watch
Food in Neighborhoods Community Coalition
Fossil Free California
FracTracker Alliance
FreshWater Accountability Project
Fridays for Future U.S.
Friends of Buckingham

Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Owls
Fund for Democratic Communities
GBC Sustainability Team
George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication
Georgia Interfaith Power and Light
Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space
Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association
Golden Egg Permaculture
Greater Highland Area Concerned Citizens
Green New Deal Virginia
Green Sanctuary of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading
GreenFaith
Greenpeace USA
Greenvest
Hilton Head for Peace
Hoosier Environmental Council
Idle No More SF Bay
Indivisible Ventura
Inland Ocean Coalition
Institute for Earth and Spirit at Iona College
Interfaith EarthKeepers
Interfaith Oceans
Interfaith Power and Light
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute
Islamic Society of North America Office for Interfaith and Community Alliances
Kaua'i climate action coalition
Kentucky Environmental Foundation
Kickapoo Peace Circle
KyotoUSA
Lady Freethinker
League of Conservation Voters
League of Women Voters of the United States
LIFT economy
Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
Long Beach Gray Panthers
Longmeadow Pipeline Awareness Group
Manhattan Local of the Green Party
Maryknoll Sisters Eastern Region USA
Massachusetts Forest Watch
Mattawoman Watershed Society
Metro NY Catholic Climate Movement
Michigan Interfaith Power & Light
Mid-Missouri Peaceworks
Milwaukee Riverkeeper
MLK Coalition of Greater Los Angeles & Topanga Peace Alliance
Movement Rights

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Religious Coalition on Creation Care
NC Climate Justice Collective
New North Citizen's Council
Nuclear Information and Resource Service ("for a nuclear-free, carbon-free world")
NYC Grassroots Alliance
Oakland Greens
Occupy Bergen County
Oceanic Preservation Society
Our Revolution Hawaii
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition
Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley
Peace Action WI
Peaceworks of Greater Brunswick
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
People Over Pipelines
People Power Solar Cooperative
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Plymouth Friends for Clean Water
Power Shift Network
Presente.org
PRESERVE MONROE
Progressive Democrats of America, Tucson, AZ Chapter
Protect Our Water Arizona Powaz.org
Public Citizen
Public Lands Project
Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action
Rachel Carson Council
Rainforest Action Network
Rainforest Relief
Raptors Are The Solution
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Renewable Energy Long Island
Revolution LA
RGISC Inc dba Rio Grande International Study Center
River Guardian Foundation
Safe Energy Rights Group
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
SandyHook SeaLife Foundation
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
SAVE THE FROGS!
Seaside Sustainability
Seattle Works
Sequoia ForestKeeper®
ShaleshockCNY
Sisters of Charity Federation
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
SoCal 350 Climate Action
Social Eco Education (SEE-LA)

Society of Alternative Resources
Solar Wind Works
SolidarityINFOService
SOMA Action
Sonoma County Climate Mobilization
South Bay Wild inc.
South Florida Wildlands Association
Southern CT Climate Reality Project
Spottswoode Winery, Inc.
St. Andrew's Earth Care Committee
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion
Sunflower Alliance
Sunrise Pittsburgh
Sustainable Wellesley
SustainUS
Sylvia Earle Alliance / Mission Blue
Syracuse Peace Council
Tennessee Riverkeeper
Terra Advocati
The Climate Mobilization
The Enviro Show
The Rachel Carson Council
The Shame Free Zone
Thomas Berry Forum for Ecological Dialogue at Iona College
Time Laboratory
Tualatin Riverkeepers
Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence Citizen Advocacy Group
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community
Upper Green River Alliance
Wall of Women
Wasatch Clean Air Coalition
Waterkeeper Alliance
Waterway Advocates
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.
WildEarth Guardians
Zero Hour

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