



## **Industrial Energy Consumers of America**

*The Voice of the Industrial Energy Consumers*

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August 17, 2017

Ms. Kelly Hammerle  
National Program Manager  
BOEM  
45600 Woodland Road  
Mailstop VAM-LD  
Sterling, VA 20166

**Re: *Request for Information and Comments on the Preparation of the 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program MAA104000, Docket No. BOEM 2017-0050***

Dear Ms. Hammerle:

IECA supports an “all-of-the-above” approach for energy production, which includes natural gas, oil, coal, nuclear, and renewable energy. As America’s EITE industries, we consume 81.6 percent of the total energy of the manufacturing sector. Energy-intensive trade-exposed (EITE) industries are price sensitive and relatively small changes to the price of energy have relatively large impacts on competitiveness and jobs. Therefore, we support increased energy production from the Outer Continental Shelf.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.0 trillion in annual sales, over 2,600 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.7 million employees worldwide. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: chemicals, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, building products, automotive, brewing, independent oil refining, and cement.

The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) is an important contributor of oil and gas to our energy supply. As of May 2017, BOEM administered over 3,000 active oil and gas leases covering 16 million OCS acres. These estimates could go a long way in continuing to improve U.S. energy security and keeping energy prices low. BOEM reported that the mean estimate of undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources in the U.S. OCS consist of 89.87 billion barrels of oil and 327.49 trillion cubic feet of natural gas

A forward-looking U.S. energy policy must continue to include opportunities to explore and develop offshore resources – the proposed program leasing areas in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska should be increased. The Gulf of Mexico is the mainstay of U.S. oil and natural gas production.

Also, oil and natural gas production off our Atlantic coast is a potential significant untapped resource. Developing oil and natural gas in the Atlantic could put hundreds of thousands of Americans to work, make us more energy secure, and increase needed revenue for the

government. But none of these benefits will appear unless the federal government supports pro-development energy policies.

Finally, IECA supports greater access to federal lands in Alaska. Alaska should be a priority because the oil and natural gas is captive and without significant demand within the state, making those resources ideal for exporting to other countries at reduced shipping costs.

Our country is blessed with an abundant supply of crude oil and natural gas resources but it takes long-term planning to ensure that these supplies are available when we need them. Your support is needed to make this happen. We look forward to discussing this with you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio  
President