



OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN RON KLEIN  
FLORIDA'S 22<sup>ND</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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## Klein Statement on Offshore Oil Drilling

**Washington, D.C.** – *Today, U.S. Representative Ron Klein (FL-22) issued the following statement on the debate about drilling for oil off Florida's coasts:*

“The debate on drilling off of our coasts in Florida has taken a dramatic and irresponsible turn this week. Republican Presidential candidate Senator John McCain, followed by Governor Charlie Crist, have flip-flopped their positions on drilling in protected land off the Florida coast.

Even if we started drilling today, it would take five to ten years before a drop of oil comes out of the ground, and when that happens, it will reduce the price of gas by pennies per gallon. That's not what I'd call real relief for families struggling with the high cost of gas – it's another false choice.

Oil and gas companies already control 68 million acres of federal land and water with the complete environmental permits necessary to start drilling today. Yet they have chosen not to do so, and American consumers are paying the price. That is why I am working to pass legislation that gives the oil companies an ultimatum: “Drill It or Lose It.”

The legislation, “The Responsible Ownership of Public Lands Act,” will assess an escalating fee on land that oil companies have leased but are not using for production, and the revenue raised from these fees will go toward renewable energy and energy efficiency investments that will reduce our dependence on oil.

The misguided “solution” offered by those who want to drill off Florida's coast will not bring relief at the pump. We can protect our beaches and the economy that surrounds them while still increasing domestic oil production if we demand the oil companies drill the land they already have, and that is exactly what I will do.”

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