

May 28, 2010

Cosponsor H.R. 5213, the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2010

Protect America's Western Coastlines and Environment from Big Oil – Make Spill Baby Spill History!

Join Members from Arizona, California, Hawaii, Maryland, New Jersey, Northern Marianas Islands, Oregon and Washington!

Cosponsors (37): *Farr, Woolsey, Schrader, Lofgren, Lee, Barbara, Wu, Thompson, DeFazio, Baird, Filner, Chu, Sherman, Dicks, Harman, Roybal-Allard, Miller, George, Stark, Schiff, Berman, Blumenauer, Davis, Susan A., Matsui, Eshoo, Holt, Sablan, Speier, Waters, Honda, Edwards, Donna F., Sánchez, Linda T., McDermott, Grijalva, Larsen, Watson, Inslee, Hirono and Napolitano*

Environmental Groups Supporting the Bill: American Cetacean Society, Monterey Bay Chapter, California Coastal Protection Network, California Gray Whale Coalition, Earth Alert, Environment America, Environment California, Environmental Caucus, California Democratic Party, Environmental Protection Information Center, Hands Across Our Beaches, Malibu Coalition for Slow Growth, National Resources Defense Council, North Coast Rivers Alliance, Ocean Protection Coalition, Oceana, Oppose PXP Coalition, Pacific Environment, Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, Village Laguna, Western Alliance for Nature and Wild Heritage Planners.

Dear Colleague:

In order to safeguard the natural beauty, wildlife and ocean-based economies of California, Oregon, and Washington, we, as Congress, must impose a ban on offshore oil drilling in federal waters on the West Coast. More than 40 years ago, California experienced an oil spill so toxic and ruinous it led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the declaration of the first Earth Day by the Santa Barbara City Council.

The residents of the Gulf Coast continue to suffer the environmental and economic consequences of offshore oil drilling as an unmitigated poisonous slick the size of Maryland and Delaware combined spreads along pristine beaches, fragile ocean habitats and precious coastal wetlands. President Obama has already called the spill a, "massive and potentially unprecedented environmental disaster," and recently a Senior White House Adviser called the spill, "the worst in U.S. history." The well remains uncapped, despite BP's numerous ad hoc attempts, more than a month after Deepwater Horizon exploded killing 11 workers, sinking the massive oil platform, and sending tens of thousands of gallons of oil into the Gulf on a daily basis. All the while the life blood of the region, the precious tourist and fishing industries lose millions of dollars a day and expect to lose billions of dollars from this disaster.

Enough is enough. Congress must impose a permanent ban on offshore oil and natural gas drilling for the West Coast.

Sound government policy requires that a proper balance is struck between risk and reward, and with offshore oil drilling the imbalance is clear: the risk far outweighs the reward. We should not endanger our natural treasures or economic prosperity for a paltry reward in the form of a few years of oil and natural gas production. I urge my colleagues to join me in imposing a ban on offshore exploration, development or production of oil and natural gas in federal waters off the West Coast.

To become a cosponsor, please contact Marcus Woodson in my office via email at marcus.woodson@mail.house.gov or by phone at 5-1880.