**National OCS 2019-2024 Draft Proposed Program**

BOEM has released the new National OCS 2019-2024 Draft Proposed Plan, opening more than 90% of the outer continental shelf for oil and gas exploration, which has some coastal states concerned regarding safety and environmental protection. When it comes to offshore production, Louisiana sets an example for other coastal states by being a top producer, while ensuring safety and the environment remain number one priorities.

*Below are tips you can use when commenting in support of the National OCS 2019-2024 Draft Proposed Plan for the public commenting period:*

***Producing American Energy is Good for America-***

* Our country has a tremendous opportunity to expand American energy resulting in a boom to our nation’s energy security, American jobs and our national treasury.
* The federal government is currently considering a Five-Year Plan that opens up 90% of all outer continental shelf areas in order to increase American energy production and American jobs.
* As the Administration explores opportunities for increasing offshore access to oil and gas development, we urge them to look to Louisiana as it has a long and distinguished history of successfully and safely producing energy to fuel America.
* Louisiana is a leader in producing American energy and we do it in such a way that balances energy production with environmental stewardship. Louisiana is a shining example of how the U.S. can achieve this balance in other federal offshore areas.
* The Gulf of Mexico is an example of how our country can explore and produce American energy while also balancing the needs of other stakeholders to ensure multiple uses can be attained.
* The total economic impact of Gulf energy is immense with more than

650,000 jobs nationwide estimated to be linked to Gulf energy activity. In FY2014, offshore oil and gas activity in the Gulf generated over $64 billion in Gross Domestic Product and contributed over $7 billion in revenues to the federal treasury, making the industry one of the largest sources of revenue to the federal government.

* A 2014 study by economist Dr. Loren C. Scott, indicates the offshore industry has a $44 billion annual impact to Louisiana and a $70 billion annual impact when you factor in the related pipeline and refining activities.
* Louisiana has demonstrated first-hand how to balance development of our nation’s oil and gas resources off its coast and still maintain a robust hunting, fishing and wildlife industry as well as a world-renowned tourist destination.
* In Louisiana, our commercial fishermen harvest over two billion

pounds of fish and shellfish annually, representing nearly 30% of the commercial fishing landings of the lower 48 states.

* In Louisiana, our wetlands provide habitat for over 5 million migratory waterfowl.
* In Louisiana, wildlife recreation, which includes hunting, fishing and wildlife-watching has amounted to a $3 billion industry, supporting over 25,000 jobs.
* In Louisiana, we have proven that we can do it all and we have it all when it comes to fueling America and protecting our environment. Let Louisiana be the example of how we can safely open up all OCS areas for safe oil and gas activity.
* Developing all of the current “off limit” areas in the OCS could add an additional $127 billion in new government revenue by 2020, according to a 2011 study by Wood-Mackenzie.
* The vibrant offshore oil and gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico has proven to provide long-lasting and undisputable economic and energy security benefits not only to Louisiana, but also to the entire nation. These are direct benefits that states across our country could experience with the opening of additional OCS territories for energy development.
* The OCS has significant reserves of oil and natural gas that could help reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources, expand employment opportunities, improve the stability of our economy,

and reduce the burden on consumer’s pocketbooks. It’s time to look at all of these options as we forge America’s energy future.