

BIPARTISAN BILLS WOULD PROTECT AMERICA'S COASTS, OCEANS AND MARINE LIFE FROM OFFSHORE DRILLING EXPANSION

Members of Congress seek to block drilling off Eastern Gulf, Atlantic, Pacific

WASHINGTON, D.C. – **June 19, 2019** – The House Natural Resources Committee [held a markup](#) today on bills that would permanently ban offshore drilling off large swaths of the nation's coasts. The bills by Rep. Francis Rooney (R-FL) and Rep. Joe Cunningham (D-SC) (H.R. 205 and H.R. 1941), would permanently ban offshore drilling off Florida's Gulf Coast, and Atlantic and Pacific Coasts respectively. There is widespread bipartisan opposition to expanded offshore drilling from every East and West Coast governor, 2,200 elected officials across the political spectrum, more than 360 municipalities, 47,000 businesses and 500,000 fishing families.

12 leading national and local organizations offered the following statement in response:

“These measures are a key step toward halting the expansion of offshore oil and gas drilling, a dangerous practice that threatens our nation’s coastal communities, oceans, national parks, marine life and climate. We cannot afford another catastrophic oil spill on our shores just to pad the pockets of the oil and gas industry. That’s why Governors from coast to coast, thousands of elected officials, local businesses and environmental organizations oppose expanded offshore drilling activities. Leadership by bill sponsors Rep. Cunningham and Rep. Rooney would protect our coasts and communities, and we urge the full House to take up these bills for a vote as quickly as possible.”

MEDIA CONTACT:

Julia Alschuler Goodman
Julia@stgresults.com
(917) 678-6038

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The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is an international nonprofit environmental organization with more than 3 million members and online activists. Since 1970, our lawyers, scientists, and other environmental specialists have worked to protect the world's natural resources, public health, and the environment. NRDC has offices in New York City; Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles; San Francisco; Chicago; Bozeman, Montana; and Beijing. Visit us at www.nrdc.org and follow us on Twitter @NRDC.

The League of Conservation Voters believes our earth is worth fighting for because everyone has a right to clean air, water, lands, and a safe, healthy community. To ensure those rights are protected, the organization helps people use their power to shape policy, hold politicians and polluters accountable, and influence elections. Visit us at www.lcv.org, and follow us on Twitter @LCVoters.

Oceana is the largest international advocacy organization dedicated solely to ocean conservation. Oceana is rebuilding abundant and biodiverse oceans by winning science-based policies in countries that control one third of the world's wild fish catch. With more than 200 victories that stop overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution and killing of threatened species like turtles and sharks, Oceana's campaigns are delivering results. A restored ocean means that one billion people can enjoy a healthy seafood meal, every day, forever. Together, we can save the oceans and help feed the world. Visit www.usa.oceana.org to learn more.

Earthjustice is the nation's premier nonprofit environmental law organization. We wield the power of law and the strength of partnership to protect people's health, to preserve magnificent places and wildlife, to advance clean energy, and to combat climate change. We are here because the earth needs a good lawyer. Visit us at Earthjustice.org and follow us on Twitter @Earthjustice.

The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3.5 million members and supporters nationwide. In addition to creating opportunities for people of all ages, levels and locations to have meaningful outdoor experiences, the Sierra Club works to safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and litigation. For more information, visit <http://www.sierraclub.org>.

The Surfrider Foundation is a nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our world's oceans, waves and beaches through a powerful network. Founded in 1984 by a handful of visionary surfers in Malibu, California, the Surfrider Foundation now maintains more than a million supporters, activists and members, with over 170 volunteer-led chapters and student clubs in the U.S., and more than 500 victories protecting our coasts. Learn more at surfrider.org.

Southern Environmental Law Center has for more than 30 years used the power of the law to champion the environment of the Southeast. With over 80 attorneys and nine offices across the region, SELC is widely recognized as the Southeast's foremost environmental organization and regional leader. SELC works on a full range of environmental issues to protect our natural resources and the health and well-being of all the people in our region. www.SouthernEnvironment.org

Since 1919, the nonpartisan **National Parks Conservation Association** has been the leading voice in safeguarding our national parks. NPCA and its 1.3 million members and supporters work together to protect and preserve our nation's most iconic and inspirational places for future generations.

Environment America works to protect the places we love, advance the environmental values we share, and win real results for our environment.

Alaska Wilderness League is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to galvanize support to secure vital policies that protect and defend America's public lands and waters in Alaska.

The Coastal Conservation League is a nonprofit advocacy and conservation organization whose mission is to protect South Carolina's natural landscapes, abundant wildlife, clean water and quality of life by working with citizens, local government and the state legislature. Learn more and get involved at www.coastalconservationleague.org. Celebrating 30 years — 1989 to 2019.

The mission of **Conservation Voters of South Carolina** is to make conservation and environmental issues a top priority among South Carolina's elected leaders, political candidates, and voters. CVSC fights for our air, land, water, and energy through political action. We are bipartisan, pragmatic, and effective. Visit www.cvsc.org to learn more.