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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3303

February 5, 2015

The Honorable Abigail Ross Hopper, Director
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Hopper:

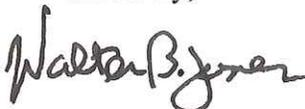
I am writing in support of the attached request from the Dare County Board of Commissioners for an additional public scoping meeting on the proposed 2017-2022 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program to be held in Dare County, North Carolina.

As you know, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has scheduled a meeting in Wilmington, North Carolina for February 17th, 2015. This location is in the southeastern corner of the state. While the federal government's plans for oil and gas development are of interest up and down the coast, many citizens of coastal North Carolina communities north of Wilmington will simply not be able to attend that meeting due to the geographic distance involved.

It is vitally important for the federal government to receive the input of citizens who stand to be most impacted by this proposal. Therefore, I respectfully encourage you to grant the county's request for an additional public meeting in Dare County.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Thank you!