

July 14, 2021

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Chairman, House Natural Resources
Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Ranking Member, House Natural Resources
Committee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva and Ranking Member Westerman,

Heritage Action for America is a nationwide grassroots organization with a membership totaling more than 500,000 Americans. We are writing to you with regards to the July 14th Natural Resources Committee markup of H.R. 3764, the Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2021.

Specifically, we believe this bill will have an adverse impact on American energy consumers and have no impact on climate change. Of particular concern in the bill are provisions that prohibit all oil and gas pre-leasing, leasing and related activities, as well as geological or geophysical activities in support of oil, gas, or methane hydrate exploration and development on a large portion of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).

The [stated purpose](#) of the legislation by Chairman Grijalva is to protect delicate ocean ecosystems and address climate change. However, what the Chairman neglects to acknowledge is that there is little risk associated with oil and gas exploration and the economic benefits vastly outweigh the environmental risks. According to the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#), oil and natural gas provide almost 70 percent of Americans' total energy and almost 95 percent of transportation fuel. As [explained](#) by The Heritage Foundation, "petroleum and gas are used as components of products like fertilizers, plastics, cosmetics, medicine, electronics, and cleansers. Even with oil's ubiquity in the economy, the environmental risk is quite small. According to the American Petroleum Institute and others, "more than 99.9995% of the oil produced, refined, stored, and transported in the United States reaches its destination safely and without incident."

It's also worth noting that offshore drilling is not only one of the largest sources of federal income aside from taxes, but it also provides millions of dollars to essential state programs, including coastal resiliency programs, through revenue sharing. Limiting the revenue stream would be counterproductive to ongoing efforts to protect coastal communities.

Furthermore, while our nation is working to address the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, enacting policies that would increase energy costs for American consumers is nonsensical. It's a [well known](#) fact that events that affect the supply and demand of oil in the U.S. and around the world make their way into the price displayed at the gas pump. As H.R.

3764 would reduce oil and natural gas production, Americans would certainly feel the effects of these policies in their bank accounts. Importantly, shutting down oil and gas production in the U.S. will have no impact on global demand for these resources – it will only increase prices for Americans and send American energy jobs overseas to countries with lower environmental, safety, and labor standards.

Instead of enacting anti-consumer policies like those contained in H.R. 3764, Congress should seek to establish a more dynamic, dominant energy sector that would provide an economic boon to coastal states while protecting the environment and providing affordable energy for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Garrett Bess
Vice President
Heritage Action for America