



June 25, 2018

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The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U. S. House of Representatives  
H-232 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
123 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
1511 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) urges you to oppose the *Enhancing State Management of Federal Lands and Waters Act*, which would impose an unreasonable and unprecedented penalty on states that oppose offshore drilling in waters off their coasts.

APCC is the leading nonprofit environmental education and advocacy organization for the geographic region of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. For 50 years, APCC has worked with citizens, municipalities and officials from regional, state and federal levels on issues that protect, preserve and enhance the fragile and unique natural resources and environment of Cape Cod, which is widely recognized as one of our nation's iconic locations.

Offshore drilling would be an unacceptable threat to the environment and economy of Cape Cod, a region that is largely dependent upon the health and beauty of our coastal resources. An oil spill along our coast would be a devastating blow to our marine ecology and the many businesses that depend on it for their livelihood. The citizens of Cape Cod, along with the citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and our elected officials—including Governor Charlie Baker—have expressed strong opposition to offshore drilling along the Atlantic coast.

It is therefore vexing to learn that Congress is considering the *Enhancing State Management of Federal Lands and Waters Act* as a means to punish states that seek to preserve their environment and protect the jobs of their citizens against the threat of catastrophic oils spills from offshore drilling. If enacted, this proposed legislation

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would impose a sizable financial cost on states that choose to exercise their rights to protect their environmental, economic and cultural resources from unreasonable threats. Penalizing states for protecting their environmental and economic interests would be an unconscionable and unfairly punitive act by Congress, one that places the private interests of the oil and gas industry ahead of the public interests of the citizens of coastal states.

APCC views this bill as a callous attempt to persecute states that put the welfare of their citizens and their environmental resources first. In essence, it would exact a ransom from those states as the cost for keeping the Atlantic coast free from the threats of an oil spill.

We therefore ask Congress to respect the rights of coastal states to protect their own shorelines and to instead reject this harmful legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Gottlieb', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Gottlieb  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable William Keating  
The Honorable Edward Markey  
The Honorable Elizabeth Warren