



January 18, 2018

Governor Charlie Baker  
Massachusetts State House  
Office of the Governor, Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

**Andrew Gottlieb**  
*Executive Director*

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RE: Department of the Interior Draft Proposed Five-Year Offshore Drilling Plan

Dear Governor Baker:

The Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) writes to request that you formally state your opposition to the Department of the Interior's recently released draft proposed five-year offshore drilling plan to open up the Atlantic coastline to drilling, particularly the waters off the Massachusetts coast.

Established in 1968, APCC is Cape Cod's leading nonprofit environmental advocacy and education organization, working for the adoption of laws, policies and programs that protect and enhance Cape Cod's natural resources and quality of life.

As you know, Cape Cod's economy, the character of its communities and its fragile environment are inextricably linked to the health and quality of our coastal waters. Opening the Atlantic coast to drilling and to the potential for a disastrous spill is a reckless threat to our region. The BP oil spill, one of America's worst environmental disasters, was a costly lesson that we should not forget. It released over 170 million gallons of oil and unleashed an unprecedented environmental and economic nightmare that continues to reverberate throughout the Gulf states. Cape Cod communities—and the rest of Massachusetts—cannot afford the risk of a similar human and environmental tragedy along our coastline.

We greatly appreciate your 2017 letter to Secretary Zinke stating that the Commonwealth opposes opening areas off the Massachusetts coast to drilling, and we thank you for taking that position.

However, APCC believes that the release of the Department of the Interior's draft proposed five-year plan for offshore drilling now compels a formal response from states such as Massachusetts that are opposed to the plan to drill in Atlantic waters. We therefore ask that you submit such a response to Secretary Zinke, and that you do all that you can to prevent offshore drilling from taking place in Massachusetts waters, including seeking withdrawal of Massachusetts from the plan.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

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

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