



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

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Councilmember

LAUREN MEISTER
Councilmember

January 22, 2018

Hon. Dianne Feinstein,
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S DRAFT PROPOSAL TO OPEN UP THE
U.S. OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF FOR POTENTIAL OIL AND GAS LEASE
SALES - OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Feinstein,

I am writing on behalf of my colleagues on the City Council of the City of West Hollywood to express our serious concerns and opposition to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke's draft proposal to open up the United States' outer continental shelf to oil and gas leases.

Secretary Zinke's decision, which follows directives from President Donald Trump, will result in the opening of more than ninety percent of coastal shorelines across the United States to oil and gas exploration. This action has the potential for serious adverse impacts on marine life and the oceans overall.

History tells us that oil and gas exploration are risky operations with very real dangers. As you are likely to remember, in 1969, California suffered what at the time was considered the largest oil spill in the history of the United States, with an estimated 90,000 barrels of oil drenching and polluting the coast of Santa Barbara all the way to Goleta.

You will also remember the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in April 2010 that caused extraordinary damage to the environment and economy of the Gulf Coast. Increased drilling activity off the coast of California could lead to a similar disaster that would have catastrophic impacts on the State's environment and economy.

In 1994, the California Legislature did the right thing and after much debate, enacted the California Coastal Sanctuary Act (Statutes of 1994, Chapter 970), a bipartisan statute aimed at protecting the California coast.





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Now more than ever, the California coast needs to be protected from decisions that advance the interests of the oil and gas industry at the expense of natural resources and the environment. Our natural resources belong to each and every American, are irreplaceable and must be protected.

Over the years, you have proven to be a great steward for the environment and the interests of California. We urge you to work with your colleagues in the United States Senate to put a stop to this misguided proposal.

Respectfully,

John Heilman,
MAYOR

C: Members of the West Hollywood City Council

