



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

February 19, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

I am writing to ask that you postpone the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Special Lease Sale 220 that is proposed for Virginia's coast. This Lease Sale is the only one currently proposed anywhere along the Atlantic seaboard.

Virginia's offshore energy policies as enacted in state law (Code of Virginia, Chapter 3 of Title 67) support federal efforts to determine the extent of natural gas resources 50 miles or more off the Atlantic shoreline, including appropriate federal funding for such an investigation. Our policies do not support exploration for oil or production of gas or oil, which would be allowed under Lease Sale 220.

I applaud your decision to extend the public comment period for the proposed 5-Year Program for oil and gas development on the OCS by 180 days. As I understand it, that 5-year plan includes 3 areas off the Atlantic Coast. I have consistently called for the Minerals Management Service (MMS) to consider the Atlantic coast as a whole, rather than singling out a particular state for a lease sale.

I believe that no lease sale should be conducted in the Atlantic until the process that you have outlined for the 5-Year Program is complete. During that time, I look forward to Virginia being able to continue a dialogue with the MMS as we address the challenging issues related to production of offshore energy resources. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Timothy M. Kaine