



OFFICES OF THE GOVERNORS

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CALIFORNIA

THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
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WASHINGTON

September 29, 2006

California, Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations
United States Congress
Washington, DC

Dear Members of the California, Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations:

As Governors of California, Oregon and Washington, we continue to oppose any actions by the federal government that would weaken the national oil and gas leasing moratorium off our shores. For the last 25 years, Congress has protected our coasts with the moratorium and we believe it should remain in place in perpetuity.

On September 18, 2006 our three states entered into an historic partnership to address critical ocean and coastal protection and management issues. The "West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health" represents our commitment to work together to reduce offshore energy impacts, ensure clean coastal waters, restore ocean and coastal habitats, promote ecosystem-based management, increase ocean awareness, expand scientific information and foster sustainable economic development throughout our diverse coastal communities. This letter is the first of many actions we will be taking, not only to implement this joint agreement, but to demonstrate that this is a partnership with purpose. We stand united to protect our ocean and coasts.

Our states have committed to alternative energy sources instead of increasing our dependence on fossil fuels. We also continue to take significant steps to increase energy efficiency to help meet the energy needs of our states and the nation. These commitments are critical to protecting our quality of life for future generations.

We are dedicated to working with you and Congress to develop positive solutions to our energy needs that do not involve the unacceptable impacts of offshore drilling. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss our position and propose positive actions to move forward.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California

Theodore R. Kulongoski
Governor of Oregon

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor of Washington

TRK:jh:ab

c: Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist
Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid
Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert
House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi