



March 4, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The ***Gulf Economic Survival Team (GEST)*** is a grassroots advocacy organization that promotes the significance of Gulf coast energy to the United States and local economies, small service companies, and middle-class Americans throughout our great nation. We represent the service companies who support the oil and gas industry, the regional and statewide business and industry associations as well as the local communities who depend on a robust offshore industry to support hundreds of thousands of high-wage jobs, revenues to fund vital community services as well as critical wetland restoration and levee protection projects that protect our environment and our people.

Today, GEST and the allied associations joining this letter are asking you to rescind Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad and DOI Secretarial Order 3395 given their significant impact to our local communities, our local businesses, and the energy workers along the Gulf Coast. GEST believes we can work collaboratively to “Build Back Better” in a way that we can achieve your Administration’s climate change and environmental goals while also maintaining our nation’s energy independence, preserving our much-needed jobs and protecting our coastal communities.

As you know, our industry has endured an unimaginable pandemic that has caused massive cuts to oil and gas production, employment and tax revenue, and has threatened the viability of small businesses along the Gulf Coast. Today, our working coast communities face an even greater challenge with the uncertainty of your Administration’s orders to the future of America’s offshore energy industry.

The U.S. depends on the offshore oil and natural gas industry to produce nearly 20% of our nation’s energy supply. And with a robust offshore industry comes critically important jobs and livelihoods. Over 11 million jobs are associated with the U.S. energy industry, including nearly 500,000 jobs directly tied to energy production in the Gulf of Mexico. Our offshore workers and the service workers proudly produce the energy that literally fuels America. Furthermore, the offshore industry is also responsible for the indirect and induced jobs, from boat companies, fabrications shops, engineering firms, grocery stores, and car dealerships throughout the Gulf Coast and extending throughout the country.

The long-term sustainability of our communities not only depends on the offshore industry for the jobs and the tax revenues; we also depend on offshore industry revenues for our vital coastal restoration and

levee protection projects. The Gulf Coast has experienced an increased number of hurricanes threatening our coastal communities and these projects are critical for our survival and for future generations. The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) revenues are shared with Gulf coast states and in Louisiana, the State is projecting to receive \$389 million of GOMESA revenues over the next 3 years to fund the State Coastal Master Plan. A suspension of offshore lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico would impact this funding and ultimately jeopardize construction of critical coastal projects such as levees, shoreline protection, breakwaters, pump stations, drainage pumps, and home elevations. Banning offshore lease sales will eliminate this funding stream and will ultimately put coastal communities at an increased risk from tropical storms and hurricanes.

GEST recognizes that climate change poses a significant threat due to the impacts of sea level rise on our coastal communities. However, a 2016 Department of Interior [report](#) concluded America's greenhouse gas emissions would increase absent new OCS leasing, because foreign sources of crude oil actually emit *more* emissions. Eliminating offshore oil and natural gas production in an effort to reduce global carbon emissions is a flawed approach to a global problem and will only hurt America's small businesses, communities and the people along the Gulf Coast.

Today, our associations urge you to rescind the recent Executive and Secretarial Orders impacting American energy development and work collaboratively with the States, the communities, and the industry to develop science-based climate change solutions that will allow our energy workers to continue to produce American energy for many generations to come. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact Lori LeBlanc at [lori@gulfeconomicssurvival.org](mailto:lori@gulfeconomicssurvival.org).

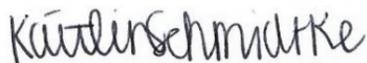
Sincerely,



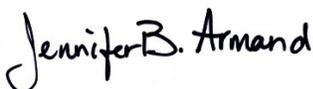
Lori LeBlanc  
Executive Director  
Gulf Economic Survival Team



John Walters  
VP, Governmental Relations  
Associated Builders & Contractors



Kaitlin Schmidtke  
Executive Director, Gulf of Mexico  
Consumer Energy Alliance



Jennifer Armand  
Executive Director  
Bayou Industrial Group



Michael Hecht  
President & CEO  
GNO, Inc.



Stephen Waguespack  
President & CEO  
Louisiana Association of Business & Industry



Mike Moncla  
President  
Louisiana Oil & Gas Association



Chett Chiasson  
Executive Director  
Greater Lafourche Port Commission



Marc Earhardt  
Executive Director  
Grow Louisiana Coalition



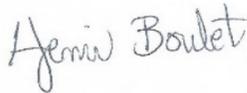
Matthew Rookard  
CEO  
Terrebonne Economic Development Authority



Christy Naquin  
Executive Director  
South Central Industrial Association



Nicole Blanchard  
CEO  
Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce



Henri Boulet  
Executive Director  
LA-1 Coalition



Vic Lafont  
CEO  
South Louisiana Economic Council



Lin Kiger  
President/CEO  
Lafourche Chamber of Commerce



Dwayne Bourgeois  
Executive Director  
North Lafourche Levee District



Jay Walker  
President  
Morganza Action Coalition