

October 4, 2022
Kelly Hammerle

Chief, National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program Development and Coordination Branch
Leasing Division, Office of Strategic Resources
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD)
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166-9216

Submitted via: Regulations.gov

RE: Request for comments on the 2023–2028 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Program (Docket ID: BOEM–2022–0031)

Dear Ms. Hammerle:

On behalf of Utah Petroleum Association, founded in 1958 with members comprising every segment of the petroleum industry in Utah, we support the 2023-2028 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Program. UPA's members include five companies that own and operate petroleum refineries in the Salt Lake City area, companies engaged in oil and gas production in the Uinta Basin, and companies that support the operations of the refining and production industries. Implementing these offshore oil and gas lease sales will increase global energy supply from within our own borders, reduce energy prices and create jobs across the United States.

The United States has an opportunity to enhance its position as the world's foremost developer of oil and natural gas. Our country has the most stringent environmental protections of anywhere in the world, the capacity to increase production from every available region, and the desire from United States citizens not to be reliant on foreign sources for the products we use every single day, not just in transportation, but in the production of fertilizer and tens of thousands of goods that require petroleum products.

Here in Utah, we have abundant federal and tribal lands where partnership has proven fruitful, but only if we have the opportunity to develop, which is why we would welcome seeing our leaders in federal government take the bold step of supporting this industry which supports Americans everywhere. Whether it's Utah's Uintah Basin, the Marcellus Shale in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, or the Gulf of Mexico, we believe in a robust domestic energy policy that puts American industries and consumers as its highest priority.

Production from new Gulf of Mexico lease sales authorized in the Proposed Program will also benefit conservation and outdoor recreation in our local communities. The Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Great American Outdoors Act both allocate funds from domestic oil and gas production. Western states derive some of their highest economic value from outdoor recreation, and Utah's national parks always rank among the highest visitation numbers of any throughout the country. Support of 2023-2028 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing

Proposed Program directly benefits our outdoor recreation industry and the visitors to some of our country and our state's most treasured places.

I support the Proposed Program and the inclusion of the 11 lease sales in the Proposed Final Program to provide long-term economic certainty for our nation, my state and my community. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Rikki Hrenko-Browning
President
Utah Petroleum Association