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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

January 26, 2018

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I have sent the enclosed letters on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to Chair Murkowski and Ranking Minority Member Cantwell of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, urging them to take action on S. 31, the *West Coast Ocean Protection Act*.

Thank you for introducing S. 31. The Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection Principle included in the Board's adopted Legislative Principles recognizes the need to work to maintain and protect coastal areas and bio-diversity and protecting the valuable coastal environment has been a local priority since the devastating oil spill of 1969. The 1,100-mile coastline of California is a national treasure that is the heart of a tourist industry that generates nearly \$5 billion in State and local taxes annually.

Interior Secretary Zinke recently announced the Administration's proposal to open up nearly the entire OCS for potential oil and gas exploration, including the entire coast of California. New offshore oil and gas exploration is incompatible with the sustainable, green coastal economy that Santa Barbara County is striving to develop and sustain. Please urge your colleagues who serve on the Committee to expedite consideration of S. 31 or similar legislation that would permanently ban future offshore oil and gas leasing along the California coast. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest
Washington Representative

DWG: awg