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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA****BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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February 11, 2021

The Honorable Salud Carbajal
 U.S. House of Representatives
 2331 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Carbajal:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of legislation to prohibit any new oil and gas lease sales on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf.

Thank you for sponsoring H.R. 455, the *California Clean Coast Act*. In Santa Barbara County, both the 1969 oil spill and the 2015 oil pipeline rupture off the Gaviota Coast demonstrated the catastrophic damage that oil extraction can inflict. The Board of Supervisors voted in 2018 to specifically oppose new leasing off the coast of California.

The California public and lawmakers have long recognized the value of protecting the State's coastal economy and protecting local fisheries and coastlines from the threats posed by offshore oil and gas exploration. H.R. 455 would ensure protection for Santa Barbara's coastal areas and biodiversity 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.

Please continue to work with your colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee to expedite consideration of legislation to permanently ban future offshore oil and gas leasing along the California coast.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest
 Washington Representative

DWG: awg