



October 5, 2022

Ms. 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](https://www.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 the Energy Marketers of America and our members, I am writing to express our support for the 2023-2028 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Program. We also support the inclusion of the 11 Proposed Program lease sales in the Proposed Final Program. Federal lease sales will increase the global energy supply from within our own borders and reduce energy prices for families and businesses nationwide.

In March 2022, crude oil prices surged to more than \$123 per barrel – the highest price in 14 years. As a result, gas and diesel prices surged as well, negatively impacting families and businesses across the state. Refusing to acknowledge policies limiting American energy production were driving these price increases, some government officials instead chose to falsely direct the blame toward gas and service station owners.

Seventy percent of Americans support the ban on Russian oil imports regardless of the rising fuel costs. However, some Americans are falsely directing blame to gas station owners for increased prices at the pump. The retail motor fuels market is the most competitive marketplace in the country. Retailers post their prices on big signs where a one-penny difference can determine where customers choose to fill up. Crude oil is traded in a global market where prices are ultimately set by worldwide supply and demand and influenced by Wall Street commodity traders' perceptions about future supply and demand. Unfortunately, American energy policy that curtails future oil production only sends a signal to the market that prices will likely rise given there will be less production in the future to meet demand.

Now more than ever it is important that American families and businesses have access to affordable, reliable energy. Along with robust onshore production from the Utica, Marcellus, and other regions, Gulf of Mexico oil production plays a critical role in powering the U.S. economy.

American families and small businesses cannot continue to bear the burden of high energy prices. We 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Stone

Sherri Stone, CAE, Vice President
Energy Marketers of America