

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 14, 2015

Brian Salerno
Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Salerno,

On April 17, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) designed to make sweeping changes to offshore blowout preventer systems (BOPs) and well control. As BSEE noted in the NPRM itself, this sweeping and complex document represents "one of the most substantial rulemakings in the history of the BSEE and its predecessor organizations". Given that fact, we were surprised to see a mere 60 day comment period provided by the Agency and respectfully ask for additional time to allow for meaningful input.

The oil and gas located in the waters off this country's shores represent an integral part of our energy security. Even with the recent boom in onshore light-tight oil, we will continue to rely on those offshore resources for many years to come for everything from petrochemical projects to transportation and electricity. We take the need to responsibly develop those resources seriously.

The regulatory environment in the offshore will have a very real impact on that development, both in terms of the safety of these projects and the economics of accessing the hydrocarbons within. That is why it is so important that BSEE's rulemaking provide an opportunity for thorough and well researched comment from all interested stakeholders.

We believe that the 60 day time period allotted by BSEE fails to accomplish that task. As BSEE noted in the NPRM, "This rulemaking is substantive in terms of the content that is explicitly stated in the rule text itself, but it also incorporates by reference some very technical, detailed standards and specifications...". For that reason, and given that BSEE is not under a consent decree or other mandate to act within a compressed timeframe, we believe a significantly longer comment period is necessary and would respectfully request that you consider such an extension.

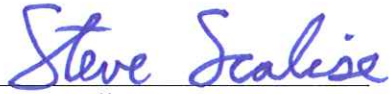
Very respectfully,



Pete Olson
Member of Congress



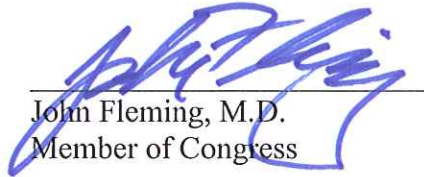
Gene Green
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



Rubén Hinojosa
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John Fleming, M.D.
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Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Charles W. Boustany, Jr., M.D.
Member of Congress



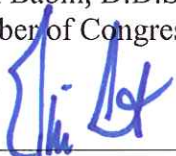
Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
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Jim Costa
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