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May 15, 2015

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 7229  
Washington, DC 20240-0002

Dear Secretary Jewell:

On April 17, 2015, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) published a notice of proposed rulemaking regarding the requirements for offshore Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control. Given the technical complexity of this proposal and the numerous open rulemaking comment periods currently at Department of the Interior, we ask that the Department extend the comment period by at least an additional 120 days.

As stated in the proposed rule, "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 in the topic of blowout preventers and well control. In their aggregate this represents one of the most substantial rulemakings in the history of the BSEE and its predecessor organizations." It is our hope that the Department receives thorough comments that fully evaluate the individual and cumulative impacts of each requirement and also allows for stakeholders to provide additional data and examination as necessary. Given the recognition by the agency that the proposal is a substantial rulemaking and the fact that it has taken the agency a number of years to propose, we believe a comment period longer than 60 days is necessary.

In addition to the proposed blowout preventer rule, the Department of the Interior also has several additional and significant rulemakings currently open for comment that further complicates the various stakeholders' ability to provide detailed and rigorous comments within 60 days. Specifically, BSEE/BOEM's joint Arctic rule package; BLM's Advanced Notice of Potential Rulemaking on royalties, rentals, minimum bids, bonding requirements and civil penalty assessments; and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue's oil and natural gas valuation reform, just to name a few.

The Honorable Sally Jewell

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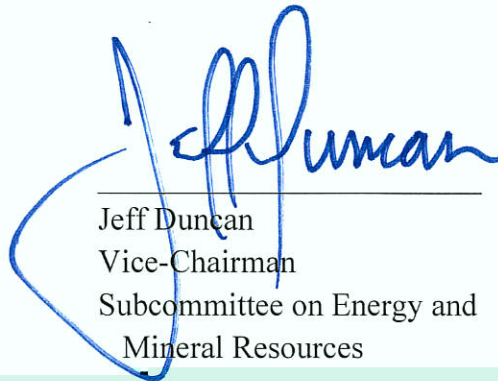
The energy renaissance taking place in our country as a result of increased oil and natural gas production both offshore and onshore supports millions of jobs, generates billions of dollars in federal and state revenue each year, and has made our nation more energy secure. The Department's press release recognized this fact when it said, "the Outer Continental Shelf is a critical component of our nation's energy portfolio, accounting for more than 16 percent of the nation's oil production and about five percent of domestic natural gas production – bringing in revenues of over \$7.4 billion dollars to the U.S. Treasury in 2014." We believe it is imperative that the U.S. energy portfolio continues to rely on offshore oil and natural gas production. Given this important resource, the complexity of the proposed rule and the number of other related rulemaking comment periods at the Department, we respectfully ask that you extend the comment period for the blowout preventer and well control rule by at least an additional 120 days.

We appreciate your consideration of this important request and look forward to continuing the U.S. position as an energy superpower.

Sincerely,



Doug Lamborn  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and  
Mineral Resources



Jeff Duncan  
Vice-Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and  
Mineral Resources

Cc: Alan Lowenthal, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources