



Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

February 25, 2019

The Honorable Kay Ivey  
Governor, State of Alabama  
State Capitol  
Montgomery, AL 36130

Re: Outer Continental Shelf Governors Coalition

Dear Governor Ivey:

I am writing to inform you I will not be participating in the Outer Continental Shelf Governors Coalition. The Coalition's work promoting the expansion of offshore oil and gas drilling is incompatible with Maine's interests. My concern is instead protecting coastal Maine from the potentially devastating effects of this industrial activity.

Opposition in Maine to offshore oil and gas drilling is bipartisan and overwhelming. Maine's congressional delegation is unanimous in its opposition. Last year, Republican Representative Bruce Poliquin and Democratic Representative Chellie Pingree co-sponsored a bill to prohibit oil and gas drilling off the coast of New England, and Republican Senator Susan Collins and Independent Senator Angus King signed onto a similar bill in the Senate.<sup>1</sup> Similarly, the entire Maine House of Representatives and Senate voted unanimously to pass a joint resolution declaring that oil and gas drilling and exploration off Maine's coast would endanger commercial fishing jobs and be an ecological and economic disaster for Maine.<sup>2</sup> I could not agree more.

Maine's 4,500 miles of coastline and 4,600 islands over one acre in size are vulnerable to the impacts of an oil spill, and the health of the coast and coastal resources is fundamental to Maine's economy.<sup>3</sup> Maine's economic prosperity is in large part dependent on its geography and its natural resources. Maine's renowned coastline, with its clean water, beautiful beaches, and abundant marine resources is a unique asset supporting some of the State's most important industries, most notably tourism and commercial fisheries. Fifty-four percent of Mainers live in coastal counties, and the jobs of many Mainers are directly or indirectly tied to our coastal

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<sup>1</sup> Bangor Daily News, January 11, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> <http://legislature.maine.gov/lawmakerweb/summary.asp?ID=280067980>.

<sup>3</sup> Brian Roach, et al., *Measuring Maine's Marine Economy*, Maine Policy Review vol. 8, issue 2, pp. 56-62 (1999) available at <http://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mpr/vol/iss2/7>.



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economy. The 46,000 jobs that Maine's ocean economy provides would be jeopardized by oil and gas drilling activities off our coast.<sup>4</sup>

The Maine coast also includes Acadia National Park, thirteen State parks, the Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge Complex, and the Passamaquoddy Indian Reservation. These special places are not only environmentally sensitive, but also have great social and cultural significance. I cannot accept the risk that they could be despoiled.

My opposition to new or expanded offshore oil and gas drilling is in alignment with the positions of the Governors of other East and West coast states. I intend to work with those Governors to fight any federal proposal that would open the waters off the Maine coast to this activity.

Thank you, and I look forward to working with you on different issues where our States share a common interest.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills  
Governor

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<sup>4</sup> State of the U.S. Ocean and Coastal Economies, 2016; National Ocean Economics Program. [http://midatlanticocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/NOEP\\_National\\_Report\\_2016.pdf](http://midatlanticocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/NOEP_National_Report_2016.pdf).