

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 27, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Frist:

We are writing to voice our support for continuing the long-standing outer continental shelf oil and gas drilling moratorium not touched by S.3711 and to urge you to allow the Senate to vote on our amendment to S. 3711, which would extend the moratorium off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the continental United States until the year 2022.

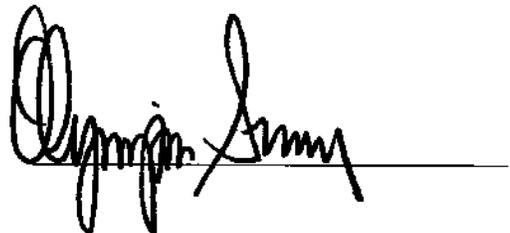
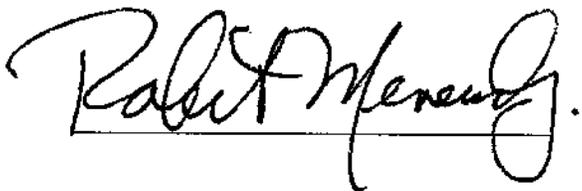
Our beaches and coastline are economic and environmental treasures for each of our states. They are the homes for millions, and they protect the homes of millions more. They are the foundation of thriving tourist economies, provide habitat and shelter for countless species of wildlife, and support a robust commercial and recreational fishing industry. They are where the residents of our states live, work, and play, and every year we welcome countless visitors from across the nation and around the world to share in their beauty.

But they are also exceptionally fragile, and we are committed to fighting to protect them. A single oil spill could lay waste to huge sections of coastline, fatal both to wildlife and a state's economy. Each year we fight to continue the moratorium against oil and gas drilling off our shores, but we see this moratorium under repeated attack in the House of Representatives, which has recently passed a bill, H.R. 4761, that would eliminate it completely.

We are particularly concerned that if S. 3711 passes, it will be subject to a conference with H.R. 4761, where many of the most onerous provisions in that bill could be included in a conference report. The elimination of the long-standing coastal moratorium is something that none of us would be able to allow, and we believe that the only way to reliably protect our coasts is to enact a long-term legislative moratorium.

We therefore respectfully urge you to allow us to offer and vote on the Menendez-Snowe-Feinstein amendment to S. 3711 and to prevent any weakening of the outer continental shelf moratorium in a conference committee with the House of Representatives. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein

Tom F. Kelly

Bobby Baker

Jack Reed

Maria Cantwell

Frank R. Lautenberg

Chris Dodd

Jon Lieber

Bill Nelson

P.D. Kennedy

Ron Wyden
