



February 14, 2019

NATIONAL  
OCEAN  
INDUSTRIES  
ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Senator  
502 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz  
Senator  
722 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cassidy and Senator Schatz,

On behalf of the National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA), I want to thank you for sponsoring legislation to extend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) to the United States Territories. NOIA gives our strongest support for this legislation because this is a change to U.S. law that is long overdue. This legislation will provide tremendous opportunities to create jobs, reduce costs to consumers, and provide energy security to the people living in the territories of the United States.

For too long, the territories have been unable to reap the benefits of energy production off their shores, because no federal agency actually has the authority for overseeing energy, including renewable energy, in the EEZ offshore. In addition, the Federal government is unable to evaluate potential resources in conjunction with the territorial governments until OCSLA is extended to these areas. Clarifying the Secretary of the Interior's authority and responsibility under OCSLA will provide the support and opportunity for a comprehensive process for planning and developing offshore energy in coordination with the territories.

America's offshore energy industries are ready to contribute to the recovery and rebuilding of Puerto Rico, Northern Marianas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For example, offshore wind can potentially boost the recovery process by providing both alternative energy generation and significant investment in onshore infrastructure. This private investment, only made possible through sound public planning by the Department of the Interior in conjunction with the territorial government, can both spur economic recovery and offset federal recovery investment. In addition, floating wind development provides a tremendous opportunity for the United States Navy to meet its energy requirements as we prepare to expand our nation's military footprint on Guam.

Simply stated, we thank you for your work on this legislation and urge all members of Congress to support this legislation. Passage of this legislation will help America's offshore industries to bring jobs, economic investment and energy to the process of building a better tomorrow for the territories.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randall Luthi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randall Luthi  
President

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