

January 5, 2026

The Honorable President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

The Sanibel City Council respectfully submits this letter in opposition to the federal plan to expand offshore oil and gas drilling in the Gulf of America. The risks associated with drilling pose an unacceptable threat to Florida's coastal environment, economy, and way of life.

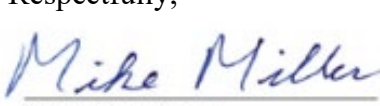
A spill off Florida's coast could devastate fragile ecosystems, tourism-based economies, and the quality of life our residents and visitors cherish. Accidents can and do occur—NOAA responds to more than 150 oil spills each year. The 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster released over 3.19 million barrels of oil into the Gulf, resulting in \$8.7 billion in fishing industry losses and the deaths of countless marine animals. Despite recovery efforts, millions of gallons of oil remain in the marine environment, and long-term impacts are still not fully understood.

Expanding drilling is unnecessary and contrary to current energy trends. This year, global renewable energy production surpassed coal and gas for the first time, reflecting rapid growth in clean energy technology and innovation. Additionally, 77 percent of offshore oil and gas leases are not producing, making new leases unwarranted. Expansion into currently protected areas would also interfere with critical military training and testing activities in the Gulf.

For Southwest Florida, the risk is particularly acute. Gulf Loop Currents could carry oil directly to our shores, threatening an economy where tourism generates approximately \$3.5 billion annually in Lee County alone.

For these reasons, the Sanibel City Council urges your Administration to reject expanded offshore drilling in the Gulf of America and to prioritize coastal protection and sustainable energy solutions.

Respectfully,

  
Mike Miller, Mayor

  
Holly D. Smith, Vice Mayor

  
Laura DeBruce, Councilmember

  
John Henshaw, Councilmember

  
Richard Johnson, Councilmember



## City of Sanibel

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