



City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, Florida 33957-4096

www.mysanibel.com

AREA CODE - 239

ADMINISTRATION	472-3700
CITY CLERK/LEGISLATIVE	472-3700
CITY COUNCIL	472-4135
BUILDING	472-4555
FINANCE	472-9615
IT SUPPORT	472-3700
LEGAL	472-4359
NATURAL RESOURCES	472-3700
PLANNING	472-4136
POLICE	472-3111
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	472-3111
PUBLIC WORKS	472-6937
RECREATION	472-0345
UTILITIES	472-3179

January 5, 2026

The Honorable Byron Donalds
1710 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Opposition to Expanded Offshore Drilling in the Gulf of America

Dear Senator Moody:

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 offshore 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 the long-term impacts of this disaster are still not fully understood.

Expanding offshore drilling is unnecessary and inconsistent with 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. In addition, 77 percent of offshore oil and gas leases are not producing, calling into question the need for new leasing. 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. The Gulf Loop Current could carry oil directly to our shores, threatening an economy where tourism generates approximately \$3.5 billion annually in Lee County alone. A single spill could cause lasting harm to our coastal communities and regional economy.

For these reasons, the Sanibel City Council urges you to oppose expanded offshore drilling in the Gulf of America and to advocate for policies that prioritize coastal protection, economic resilience, and sustainable energy solutions.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and for your service representing the State of Florida in the United States Senate.

Respectfully,

Mike Miller

Mike Miller, Mayor

Holly D. Smith

Holly D. Smith, Vice Mayor

Laura J. DeBruce

Laura DeBruce, Councilmember

J. B. H.

John Henshaw, Councilmember

Richard Johnson

Richard Johnson, Councilmember