



USET

SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION FUND

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USET SPF Resolution No. 2018 SPF:010

OPPOSITION TO DRAFT PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR OIL AND NATURAL GAS LEASING

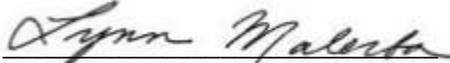
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-seven (27) federally recognized Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET SPF Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribal Nation, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribal Nations' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** on April 28, 2017, President Trump issued Executive Order 13795, Implementing An America-First Offshore Energy Strategy, which requires the Department of Interior (DOI) to reconsider the Obama Administration's five year offshore drilling plan and leasing withdrawals; and
- WHEREAS,** this action represents a dramatic expansion of offshore drilling in U.S. coastal waters that threatens our natural resources and environment as well as traditional ways of life and submerged cultural resources of coastal Tribal Nations; and
- WHEREAS,** under the Executive Order, the DOI is tasked with revising the five-year offshore drilling plan, administered by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) through the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program in accordance with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act at 43 USC 1331 *et. seq.*, to ensure robust exploration and eliminate leasing withdrawals implemented by the Obama administration; and
- WHEREAS,** at the same time the Executive Order was issued, the Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, issued Order No. 3350, "designed to implement the President's directives and take other actions to ensure that responsible Outer Continental Shelf exploration and development is promoted and not unnecessarily delayed or inhibited"; and
- WHEREAS,** the DOI, through the BOEM, has subsequently released a draft proposed program (DPP) for offshore oil and gas leasing for 2019-2024, which will make available over 90% of U.S. Outer Continental Shelf acreage, and more than 98% of undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources in federal offshore areas, available for future exploration and development; and
- WHEREAS,** the DPP would open 25 of the 26 regions of the Outer Continental Shelf that may include up to 47 lease sale auctions of drilling rights in areas that have been federally protected for decades including a billion acres in the Arctic region, the California coast line, and new exploratory areas along the East Coast of the U.S.; and
- WHEREAS,** this includes 3 proposed lease sales in the Mid- and South Atlantic regions, two in the North Atlantic, and one for the Straits of Florida, representing a significant change in federal policy for the USET SPF region, since there are no existing leases in the Atlantic and no sales have occurred there since 1983; and

- WHEREAS,** the DPP stands to have unprecedented negative impacts on the coastal environment, natural resources, marine life, public health and Tribal communities, including Tribal cultural resources and subsistence rights; and
- WHEREAS,** while it issued a request for public comments prior to and after the issuance of the DPP, the DOI has failed to initiate Tribal consultation on the DPP, despite a requirement in its own Tribal consultation policy to do so when considering, “a Departmental action with Tribal implications”; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors call upon the Department of the Interior to immediately initiate Tribal consultation on the draft proposed program for offshore oil and gas leasing for 2019-2024; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET SPF Board of Directors urges the Department of the Interior to revise the draft proposed program to reflect the concerns of Tribal Nations and ensure protections to our coasts remain intact.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET SPF Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, February 8, 2018.


Chief Kirk E. Francis, Sr., President
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund


Chief Lynn Malerba, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes
Sovereignty Protection Fund