



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

February 23, 2009

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rahall:

Please find enclosed a letter that I sent to Secretary Ken Salazar on February 19, 2009, requesting that the Department of Interior postpone the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lease Sale 220 that is proposed for Virginia's coast. I applaud the Committee's interest in hearing the differing perspectives on offshore drilling and request that my letter to Secretary Salazar be included in the hearing's official record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TKaine", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Timothy M. Kaine

§ 67-300. Offshore natural gas and wind resources.

A. In recognition of the need for energy independence, it shall be the policy of the Commonwealth to support federal efforts to determine the extent of natural gas resources 50 miles or more off the Atlantic shoreline, including appropriate federal funding for such an investigation. The policy of the Commonwealth shall further support the inclusion of the Atlantic Planning Areas in the Minerals Management Service's draft environmental impact statement with respect to natural gas exploration 50 miles or more off the Atlantic shoreline. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as a policy statement on the executive or Congressional moratoria on production and development of natural gas off the Atlantic shoreline.

B. It shall be the policy of the Commonwealth to support federal efforts to examine the feasibility of offshore wind energy being utilized in an environmentally responsible fashion.

(2006, c. 939.)