

Alaska Legislature

Representative Charisse Millett

Session:

State Capitol Building, Room 412
Juneau, AK 99801
Phone (907) 465-3879
Fax (907) 465-2069



Interim:

Anchorage LIO
716 W 4th Ave., Room 630
Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone (907) 269-0222
Fax (907) 269-0223

District 30

Co-chair, House Special Committee on Energy

September 10, 2010

BOEM Leasing Division
381 Elden Street, MS 4010
Herndon, VA 20170

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to state my support for overturning the moratorium on offshore drilling in Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf.

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a tragedy, but it should not be used as an excuse to halt or even delay OCS exploration in Alaska. First of all, exploratory drilling in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas will not be deep water operations. Drilling would occur at depths of just 150 feet – not at the 5,000 foot depths performed in the Gulf of Mexico.

The federal government's own estimates say at least 27 billion barrels of oil and 130 trillion cubic feet of natural gas lie beneath Alaska's OCS. Resources of that magnitude cannot be locked up when they can be safely extracted without harming the surrounding environment or the subsistence lifestyle of Alaska Natives.

This is an opportunity for the Obama Administration to show it is willing and able to make the tough decisions that must be made in order to get the nation's economy back on track. At stake are thousands of new jobs and billions of dollars of revenue for the nation's treasury if the moratorium is lifted and exploration and production are allowed to move ahead.

I also want to state my displeasure with the U.S. Department of the Interior's poor public outreach in this process. No one from the Parnell Administration or the Alaska Legislature was allowed to participate in the Interior Department's forum held on August 26th in Anchorage. In fact, no public comment of any kind was allowed at the hearing and the only opportunity Alaskans were given to state their opinion was by filling out a five by eight inch comment card. That is not how the public process is supposed to work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charisse Millett". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rep. Charisse Millett