UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS INTERIOR BOARD OF LAND APPEALS

APPEAL FF	ROM THE BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEI	MENT
• •	mit to Conduct Geophysical Exploration for Mineral Res Outer Continental Shelf -001, E14-003, E14-004, E14-005, E14-006 & E14-007	sources on the
DIT		
	IBLA Case Nos. 2017-0135, et al. & 2017-0140	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ernational Association of Geophysical Contractors, Ion/Gent Invest AS, Spectrum Geo, Inc., TGS and WesternGeog	
		Appellants,
		Appellants,
Bureau of Ocean Energ	y Management,	Appellants,
Bureau of Ocean Energ	y Management,	Appellants, Appellee.

The Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast ("BAPAC") hereby moves to intervene in the two pending appeals before the Interior Board of Land Appeals ("IBLA") contesting the January 6, 2017, decisions of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management ("BOEM") to deny appellants' permit

applications to conduct airgun seismic surveys for oil and gas reserves on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf ("OCS").1

I. Statement of the Case

On January 5, 2017, while six applications to conduct airgun seismic surveys in the Mid- and South Atlantic Planning Areas were pending before BOEM, its Director issued a memorandum directing denial of those pending applications. On January 6, 2017, BOEM denied all six pending permit applications. On March 2, and March 3, 2017, those six applicants and the IAGC filed appeals to this Board. On March 30, 2017, BAPAC representatives met with BOEM's Acting Director and were informed of the appeals to this Board.² (Ex. 1, Knapp Decl. ¶ 17.) This motion to intervene follows.

II. Standard of Review

The regulation governing intervention before the IBLA is as follows:

- (a) A person who wishes to intervene in an appeal must file a motion to intervene within 30 days after the person knew or should have known that the decision had been appealed to the Board.
- (b) A motion to intervene must set forth the basis for the proposed intervention, including:
- (1) Whether the person had a right to appeal the decision under § 4.410 or would be adversely affected if the Board reversed, vacated, set aside, or modified the decision; and

¹International Association of Geophysical Contractors ("IAGC") is a membership organization to which the other appellants belong, but which does not have its own permit application on review. IAGC was granted standing in these cases in the April 21, 2017, order of this Board.

² Those six appeals were consolidated into two cases by order of this Board on March 31, 2017. On that date, appellants were also granted an extension of time to file their statements of reasons until sixty days after the IBLA receives the administrative record, which is currently being compiled by BOEM.

- (2) How and when the person learned of the appeal.
- (c) The Board may:
- (1) Grant the motion to intervene:
- (2) Deny the motion to intervene for good cause, e.g., where granting it would disadvantage the rights of the existing parties or unduly delay adjudication of the appeal; or
- (3) Grant the motion to intervene but limit the person's participation in the appeal.

43 C.F.R. § 4.406. Thus, this Board has broad power to grant intervention. See Alder Gulch, LLC, 184 IBLA 48, 2013 WL 6162254 (July 3, 2013) (allowing intervention sua sponte after deciding that a person was not a party but would be an appropriate intervenor if such a motion had been made); Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, et al., IBLA 2012-155, 2012 WL 5900116, at n.12 (Nov. 7, 2012) (granting a motion to intervene for one party with a financial stake in the outcome and allowing amicus curiae status for the county); HELPHINKLEY.ORG, IBLA 2012-98, 2012 WL 3757008, at *4 (July 10, 2012) (granting a motion to intervene).

III. Manner of Notice and Timeliness of Intervention

As an initial matter, BAPAC is filing this motion to intervene in compliance with 43 C.F.R. §§ 4.406(a)-(b) & 4.22 (e). On March 30, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. Frank Knapp, President and CEO, and other BAPAC members met with BOEM Acting Director Walter Cruickshank and his staff, along with Jim Schindler of the Department of Interior. (Knapp Decl. ¶ 17.) At that time Mr. Cruickshank advised BAPAC that the seismic companies had appealed their permit denials. (*Id.*) That meeting was the first time that BAPAC had notice of the appeals. (*Id.*) Because BAPAC learned of the decision on March 30, 2017, and is filing this motion on May 1, 2017, in accordance with 43 C.F.R. § 4.22(e), it has complied with the timeliness requirements for intervention in 43 C.F.R. § 4.406(a), and has hereby laid out how and when it learned of the appeal as required by 43 C.F.R. § 4.406(b)(2).

IV. BAPAC's Business Interests

BAPAC works "to ensure the long term health and economic vitality of the Atlantic seaboard through responsible stewardship of the coastal and ocean waters." It is a membership organization that consists of over 41,000 businesses and business organizations, and over 500,000 commercial fishing families that depend upon the Atlantic Ocean to maintain economic viability. (Knapp Decl. ¶ 4.) These businesses include commercial fishing, recreational fishing rentals/sales, hotels/vacation rentals, restaurants, realtors, and retail. (*Id.* at. ¶ 14.) Overall, businesses along the Atlantic in fishing, recreation, and tourism provide nearly 1.4 million jobs and over \$95 billion in gross domestic product.⁴

Commercial fishing businesses and business organizations rely on healthy populations of marketable fish, which they catch and sell. BAPAC has over half a million such business interests.

Some examples include Main Coast Fishermen's Association, Murrells Inlet Seafood, Duna Fisheries, LLC, and Maine Clammers Association, to name a few. (Ex. 2, Letters to Pres. Obama.) The commercial fishing businesses in BAPAC catch and sell fish in the Atlantic OCS areas where seismic airgun surveys would occur if the appellants' permits were granted.

³ Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast, "Who We Are," *available at* http://protectingtheatlanticcoast.org/about-us/ (last visited May 1, 2017).

⁴ Menaquale, Andrew, *Offshore Energy by the Numbers* (January 2015), *available at* http://oceana.org/publications/reports/offshore-energy-numbers (last visited May 1, 2017).

⁵ Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast, "Business Organizations," available at http://protectingtheatlanticcoast.org/business-organizations/ (last visited May 1, 2017).

⁶ See OCEANA, Overlap of Proposed Seismic Airgun Blasting Areas and Essential Fish Habitat and Critical Habitat in the Atlantic, available at http://usa.oceana.org/maps-show-risk-marine-life-threatened-unnecessary-seismic-airgun-blasting?_ga =1.236735553.1966431777.1455746623 (last visited May 1, 2017).

The tourism businesses and organizations in BAPAC rely on an attractive, inviting and healthy Atlantic Ocean and its beaches to draw tourists. The tourism businesses provide goods and services to tourists when they visit, including hotels and other accommodations, restaurants, retail stores, and many others. Some examples of tourism businesses in BAPAC include the Bently Inn, the Inn at Pamlico Sound, Koru Village Resort and Spa, Tautogs Restaurant, Sheila's Carolina Kitchen, Luther Marine Maintenance, Dough Boy's Pizza Restaurants, Aurora Wellness Services, Shuckin Shack Oyster Bar, Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club, Crystal Blue Productions, and Windswept Massage, to name a few. (Ex. 2, Letters to Pres. Obama.) Additionally many chambers of commerce and associations are part of BAPAC because of their members' interests in the tourism industry, such as Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, Carteret County Chamber of Commerce, Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce, Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce, South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce, New Jersey Tourism Industry Association, Virginia Beach Hotel Association, and Virginia Beach Restaurant Association. BAPAC tourism businesses operate in or near the Atlantic OCS waters where seismic airgun surveys would occur if the appellants' permits were granted.

The recreational businesses and organizations in BAPAC offer services such as fishing tours, boating tours, kayaking tours, surfing lessons, diving tours, and other services to their customers. Some of the BAPAC recreational businesses advertise activities which are reliant upon viewing or catching marine animals, such as catching sport fish or viewing whales and sea turtles. For example, recreational business in BAPAC include Blue Planet Scuba, Cocoa Beach Parasail, Charleston Outdoor

⁷ Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast, "Business Organizations," available at http://protectingtheatlanticcoast.org/business-organizations/ (last visited May 1, 2017).

Adventures, Delmarva Board Sport Adventures, Dive Services Inc., Paddle Surf New Jersey LLC, Sage Sailing, Inc., Sealand Adventure Sports, Sunrise Surf & Skateboard Shop, Surf City Surf School, Tula Adventure Sports, Hatteras Island Board Sports, Hatteras Island Surf and Sail Shop, Just for the Beach Rentals, Long Beach Surf Shop, Off the Hook Fishing Charters, and Rover Tours, Inc. (Ex. 2, Letters to Pres. Obama.) These businesses provide their services in and/or near the Atlantic OCS waters where seismic airgun surveys are proposed to occur if the permits are granted.⁸

V. Adverse Effects of a Reversal on BAPAC

BAPAC "would be adversely affected if the Board reversed, vacated, set aside, or modified the decision," to deny the permits at issue, and thus, should be allowed to intervene. 43 C.F.R. § 4.406 (b)(1). The seismic airgun surveys at issue would entail loud, repetitive, explosive sounds that can travel up to 2,500 miles every ten seconds for as long as the permits are issued along the Atlantic OCS. 9 If this Board were to reverse BOEM's permit denial decisions, BAPAC members would go out of

⁸ See OCEANA, Overlap of Proposed Seismic Airgun Blasting Areas and Essential Fish Habitat and Critical Habitat in the Atlantic, available at http://usa.oceana.org/maps-show-risk-marine-life-threatened-unnecessary-seismic-airgun-blasting?_ga =1.236735553.1966431777.1455746623 (last visited Apr. 27, 2017); Overlap of Proposed Seismic Airgun Blasting Areas and Critical Habitat for Loggerhead Sea Turtles, available at http://usa.oceana.org/sites/default/files/4046/overlap_of_proposed_seismic_airgun_blasting_areas_and_critical_habitat_for_loggerhead_sea_turtles.jpg (last visited Apr. 27, 2017); Overlap of Proposed Seismic Airgun Blasting Areas and Critical Habitat for North Atlantic Right Whales, available at http://usa.oceana.org/sites/default/files/4046/overlap_of_proposed_seismic_airgun_blasting_areas_and_critical_habitat_for_north_atlantic_right_whales.jpg (last visited Apr. 27, 2017).

⁹ Nieukirk, S. L., Mellinger, D. K., Moore, S. E., Klinck, K., Dziak, R. P., & Goslin, J. (2012). Sounds from airguns and fins whales recorded in the mid-Atlantic Ocean, 1999-2009. The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, 131(2), 1102-1112; Seismic Surveys at Sea: The contributions of airguns to ocean noise. (2004) Backgrounder: Acoustic Ecology Institute; National Research Council. Ocean Noise and Marine Mammals. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. (2003). doi:10.17226/10564.

business and/or lose significant revenue that is currently generated by and reliant upon the Atlantic OCS.

For example, commercial and recreational fishing are dependant upon the abundance of fish and shellfish in the Atlantic waters. Seismic airgun surveys have been shown to cause a decline in fish that are caught for commercial and recreational purposes. That decline is significant, ranging from 40% to 80% of the populations in and near areas where seismic airgun blasting occurs. ¹⁰ Seismic airgun

¹⁰ Dalen, J., & Knutsen, G. (1987). Scaring effects in fish and harmful effects on eggs, larvae and fry by offshore seismic explorations. Progress in underwater acoustics (pp. 93-102); Springer: Engas, A., Lokkeborg, S., Ona, E., & Soldal, A.V. (1996). Effects of seismic shooting on local abundance and catch rates of cod (Gadus morhua) and haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus). Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, 53(10), 2238-2249. doi: 10.1139/cjfas-53-10-2238; Hassel, A., Knutsen, T., Dalen, J., Skaar, K., Lokkeborg, S., Misund, O., Ostensen, O., Fonn, M., & Haugland, E. (2004). Influence of seismic shooting on the lesser sandeel (Ammodytes marinus). ICES Journal of Marine Science: Journal du Conseil, 61(7), 1165-1173; Lokkeborg, S. (1991). Effects of a geophysical survey on catching success in longline fishing ICES CM Documents; Skalski, J., Pearson, W., & Malme, C. (1992). Effects of sounds from a geophysical survey device on catch-per-unit-effort in a hook-and-line fishery for rockfish (Sebastes spp.). Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, 49(7), 1357-1365; Slotte, A., Hansen, K., Dalen, J., & Ona, E. (2004). Acoustic mapping of pelagic fish distribution and abundance in relation to a seismic shooting area off the Norwegian west coast. Fisheries Research, 67(2), 143-150. doi: 10.1016/j.fishres.2003.09.046; Paxton, A. B., Taylor, J. C., Nowacek, D. P., Dale, J., Cole, E., Voss, C. M., & Peterson, C. H. 2017. Seismic survey noise disrupted fish use of a temperate reef. Marine Policy. 78:68 - 73. https://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2016.12.017; McCauley, R., Fewtrell, J., Duncan, A., Jenner, C., Jenner, M., Penrose, J., Prince, R., Adhitya, A., Murdoch, J., & McCabe, K. (2000). Marine seismic surveys: Analysis of airgun signals; and effects of air gun exposure on humpback whales, sea turtles, fishes and squid. Rep. from Centre for Marine Science and Technology, Curtin Univ., Perth, WA, for Austral. Petrol. Prod. Assoc., Sydney, NSW, 8-5; McCauley, R., Fewtrell, J. & Popper, A. (2003). High intensity anthropogenic sound damages fish ears. The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, 113(1), 638-642; McCauley, Robert D, et al. "High Intensity Anthropogenic Sound Damages Fish Ears." The journal of the acoustical society of America 113, no. 1 (2003): 638-42.

surveys have also caused shellfish that are commercially harvested, such as crabs and scallops, to both decline and become deformed, which would make such catches unmarketable.¹¹

For all of these commercial or recreational fishing businesses, including the over 500,000 fishing families in BAPAC, a decline in the fish that they catch and/or sell means a decline in revenue. If the decline is significant enough, the commercial and recreational fishing businesses in BAPAC will go out of business. Therefore, if seismic airgun surveys were conducted along the Atlantic OCS, then BAPAC commercial and recreational fishing businesses and business associations would be directly injured by lost revenue and business.

The BAPAC businesses and business associations that rely on recreation along the Atlantic OCS will also be directly impacted through lost revenues if seismic airgun surveying is allowed.

Activities such as diving will not be possible due to the noise. ¹² Businesses that offer other recreational activities tied to viewing marine life will suffer because seismic airguns have been shown to cause a reduction in marine life. ¹³ In addition to losing fish for sport fishing or consumption, seismic airgun

¹¹ Moriyasu, M., et al. 2004. Effects of seismic and marine noise on invertebrates: A literature review. Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat. Research document 2004/126.
26DFO (Department of Fisheries and Oceans). 2004; Potential impacts of seismic energy on snow crab. DFO Can. Sci. Advis. Sec. Habitat Status report No. 2004/003;
Aguilar de Soto, N., Delorme, N., Atkins, J., Howard, S., Williams, J. and Johnson, M.2013. Anthropogenic noise causes body malformations and delays development in marine larvae.
Scientific Reports 3: 283 DOI:10.1038/srep02831.

¹² The Diving Medical Advisory Committee advises conducting a joint risk assessment for any diving within ten kilometers of seismic operations. DMAC, "Safe Diving Distance from Seismic Surveying Operations," (July 2011), *available at* http://www.dmac-diving.org/guidance/DMAC12.pdf.

¹³ See supra n.10.

surveying harms and drives away whales and sea turtles.¹⁴ These recreational businesses will lose revenue if the permit denials are reversed because their customers pay to engage in activities along and near the Atlantic OCS that rely upon fish, whales and sea turtles that would be physically harmed, beached or driven away from viewing areas and natural habitat by seismic airgun surveys.

These examples are just some of the ways in which the members of BAPAC, as part of the coastal economy along the Atlantic, will be harmed. ¹⁵ BAPAC and its members have a strong interest in the permits at issue in this case because if this Board were to reverse BOEM and allow seismic airgun blasting, BAPAC members will lose revenue. Therefore, BAPAC is adversely affected, and should be allowed to intervene in these appeals. 43 C.F.R. § 4.406 (b)(1); see also Alder Gulch,

¹⁴ Gordon, J., Gillespie, D., Potter, J., Frantzis, A., Simmonds, M. P., Swift, R., and Thompson, D. 2004. A review of the effects of seismic surveys on marine mammals. Mar. Technol. Soc. J. 37(4):16 – 34; Rolland, R. M., et al. "Evidence That Ship Noise Increases Stress in Right Whales." Proceedings of the Royal Society B-Biological Sciences 279, no. 1737 (Jun 22 2012): 2363-68; Miller, P., et al. "Using at-Sea Experiments to Study the Effects of Airguns on the Foraging Behavior of Sperm Whales in the Gulf of Mexico." Deep-Sea Research Part I-Oceanographic Research Papers 56, no. 7 (Jul 2009): 1168-81; Castellote, M., et al. "Acoustic and Behavioural Changes by Fin Whales (Balaenoptera Physalus) in Response to Shipping and Airgun Noise." Biological Conservation 147, no. 1 (3// 2012): 115-22; McCauley, R., Fewtrell, J., Duncan, A., Jenner, C., Jenner, M., Penrose, J., Prince, R., Adhitya, A., Murdoch, J., & McCabe, K. (2000). Marine seismic surveys: Analysis of airgun signals; and effects of air gun exposure on humpback whales, sea turtles, fishes and squid. Rep. from Centre for Marine Science and Technology, Curtin Univ., Perth, WA, for Austral., Petrol. Prod. Assoc., Sydney, NSW, 8-5; Weir, C. (2007). Observations of marine turtles in relation to seismic airgun sound off Angola. Marine Turtle Newsletter, 116, 17-20.

¹⁵ Other examples of BAPAC businesses that will suffer if the Atlantic OCS is subjected to seismic airgun surveys include the following: Hotels and vacation rentals will have reduced bookings with marine mammal strandings on beaches and less demand from recreational fisherman; restaurants will suffer from increased costs for fresh fish and loss of customers; realtors will have reduced sales and rentals due to fewer showings and less demand; and retail stores will have reduced sales due to reduced number of tourists. All of these businesses would suffer from the negative publicity resulting from marine mammal and fish losses associated with seismic surveys.

LLC, 184 IBLA 48, 2013 WL 6162254 (July 3, 2013); Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, et al., IBLA 2012-155, 2012 WL 5900116, at n.12 (Nov. 7, 2012); HELPHINKLEY.ORG, IBLA 2012-98, 2012 WL 3757008, at *4 (July 10, 2012).

VI. BAPAC is a Party due to its Participation in the Process

In the alternative to finding intervenor status, BAPAC asserts that it may be considered a "party" to these appeals because of its participation in the process and opposition to seismic testing on the Atlantic OCS. A party is broadly defined as anyone who "participated in the process leading to the decision under appeal, e.g., by filing a mining claim or application for use of public lands, by commenting on an environmental document, or by filing a protest to a proposed action." 43 C.F.R. § 4.410(b).

BAPAC has been advocating against seismic airgun surveying on the Atlantic OCS since its formation in September 2016. (Knapp Decl. ¶¶ 2, 7.) The BAPAC Board of Directors met with BOEM officials on November 14, 2016. (*Id.* at ¶ 15.) In that meeting each BAPAC representative had an opportunity to speak to BOEM officials. (*Id.*) Each BAPAC representative provided industry-specific information based on their own areas of expertise and places in the business community. (*Id.*) However, all BAPAC representatives had the same request: for permanent protection of the Atlantic Ocean from offshore drilling activities, which include denying all pending seismic airgun blasting permits. (*Id.*) BAPAC was thanked by BOEM for providing comments and encouraged to continue to stay active and engaged. (*Id.*)

BAPAC also sent two letters to President Obama in opposition to seismic testing, on October 27, 2016 and December 13, 2016. (Attached as Ex. 2). In these letters, BAPAC expresses its strong

opposition to seismic airgun surveying in the Atlantic OCS. (*Id.*) BAPAC also asks President Obama to deny all permits for any type of geological and geophysical (G&G) activities in the Atlantic Ocean, including seismic testing. (*Id.*) These letters are signed by hundreds of members and supporters of BAPAC, in addition to the association itself. (*Id.*)

In this very case, this Board has allowed a membership organization to be considered a party because of its participation in the process. (April 21, 2017, Order.) "IAGC participated in the process leading to BOEM's decisions by providing comments on environmental documents and permit applications relevant to BOEM's decisions." (*Id.* at 1-2.) Thus, this Board granted IAGC party status in these appeals. Similarly, BAPAC participated in the process by providing comments. BAPAC even took the initiative to have its entire board of directors meet and discuss the permit applications with BOEM. Therefore, BAPAC may also be considered a party pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 4.410(b).

VII. Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, BAPAC respectfully requests that this Board grant its motion to intervene.

Respectfully submitted,

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Georgetown, South Carolina May 1, 2017

Exhibit 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS INTERIOR BOARD OF LAND APPEALS

	APPEAL FROM THE BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
Ap	plication for Permit to Conduct Geophysical Exploration for Mineral Resources on the Outer Continental Shelf E14-001, E14-003, E14-004, E14-005, E14-006 & E14-007
	IBLA Case Nos. 2017-0135, et al. & 2017-0140
	Services Inc., International Association of Geophysical Contractors, Ion/GX Technology ation, MultiKlient Invest AS, Spectrum Geo, Inc., TGS and WesternGeco LLC,
	Appellant
Bureau	vs. of Ocean Energy Management,
	Appelle
	DECLARATION OF FRANK KNAPP, JR.
1.	My name is Frank Knapp, Jr. I make this Declaration on the basis of personal knowledge
	and am competent to testify to the matters stated in this Declaration, which are true and
	correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.
2.	I am President and CEO of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce. I
	am also on the Board of the Rusiness Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast

("BAPAC"), which I co-founded in September of 2016 and presently serve as its

President and CEO.

- 3. My VITA, attached, gives a detailed listing of my business experiences, publications, productions and accolades over the past four decades.
- 4. My responsibilities as President and CEO of BAPAC include all organizational activities including recruiting and managing its members, which are over 41,000 businesses and over 500,000 commercial fishing families.
- 5. BAPAC is the leading business organization working to ensure the long term health and economic vitality of the Atlantic seaboard through responsible stewardship of the coastal and ocean waters.
- BAPAC and its members advocate for the protection of the Atlantic Coast from offshore oil/gas exploration and drilling.
- 7. BAPAC began when the business communities along the Atlantic Coast formed an alliance to advocate in our states and in Washington, DC against drilling and seismic testing.
- 8. I am familiar with commercial fishing businesses based upon my involvement with BAPAC and the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce. Commercial fishing businesses, including those in BAPAC, rely upon fish in the Atlantic Ocean to make income. If fish catch was reduced or eliminated, that would result in loss of income and, if it were substantial enough, the shutting down of commercial fishing businesses in BAPAC.
- 9. I am familiar with recreational businesses of marine-life sight-seeing tours for whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals and sharks based upon my involvement with BAPAC and the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce. These recreational businesses along the Atlantic, including those in BAPAC, rely upon healthy marine life populations

- in the Atlantic Ocean in order to make income. If marine life were to be reduced or eliminated, that would result in loss of income, and if it were substantial enough, the shutting down of recreational businesses in BAPAC.
- I am familiar with the tourism industry along the Atlantic based upon my involvement with BAPAC and the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce. Tourism along the Atlantic is dependent upon having healthy marine life and pristine, desirable beaches to draw tourists to the coastal region. If marine life were to be reduced or eliminated, that would result in a loss of tourism, and thus loss of income, and if it were substantial enough, the shutting down of tourism-dependent businesses in BAPAC.
- I am familiar with the impacts of seismic airgun surveys, and have reviewed many resources on those impacts, including Menaquale, Andrew, *Offshore Energy by the Numbers* (Jan. 2015), *available at* http://oceana.org/publications/reports/offshore-energy-numbers; Shutak, Mike, "Study: fish numbers drop" Carteret County News-Times (Feb. 3, 2017), *available at* http://www.carolinacoastonline.com/news_times/article_12dbfe72-ea2d-11e6-b1b0-07f5ea79aab9.html; Barraclough, Breana, "Golden Bay whale stranding: Busting the myths" Newshub (Feb. 13, 2017), *available at* <a href="http://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay-whale-stranding-new-zealand/2017/02/golden-bay

busting-the-myths.html; OCEANA, Fishing, Seismic Testing, and Offshore Drilling, available at

http://usa.oceana.org/sites/default/files/662/fishing_seismic_testing_offshore_drilling_fac_testing_offshore_drilling_fac_testing_offshore_drilling_fac_testing_offshore_drilling_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_testing_fac_test

- http://usa.oceana.org/sites/default/files/662/seismic_blasting_fact_sheet_march_2016_1.p df.
- 12. I have reviewed the six permits that were denied by BOEM and are on appeal in this case.
- 13. Seismic airgun surveying, if it were permitted for any or all of those six companies, would result in the loss of income for many, if not all, members of BAPAC. If the seismic airgun surveying were allowed to continue for a long period of time, it would cause businesses in BAPAC to close because they would no longer be sustainable.
- 14. More specifically, the harms from seismic airgun surveying on different types of businesses in BAPAC would be as follows:
 - a. Commercial fishing would suffer from dramatic reduction in catches and thus income;
 - Recreational fishing rentals/sales would suffer from reduced demand due to displaced fish;
 - c. Hotels/vacation rentals would suffer from reduced bookings with marine mammal strandings on beaches and less demand from recreational fisherman;
 - d. Restaurants would suffer from increased costs for fresh fish and loss of customers;
 - e. Realtors would suffer from loss of sales and rentals due to fewer showings and less demand; and
 - f. Retail would suffer from loss of sales due to reduced number of tourists.
- 15. On November 14, 2016, myself and the rest of the BAPAC Board of Directors met with BOEM officials. In that meeting, myself and every other BAPAC representative had an opportunity to speak to BOEM officials. We provided industry-specific information

based on our various areas of expertise and places in the business community. We all asked for permanent protection of the Atlantic Ocean from offshore drilling activities, which include denying all pending seismic airgun blasting permits. We were thanked by BOEM for providing comments and encouraged to continue to stay active and engaged.

- I also wrote two letters to President Obama on behalf of BAPAC, which were sent on October 27, 2016 and December 13, 2016. In these letters, BAPAC expresses its strong opposition to seismic airgun surveying in the Atlantic OCS. BAPAC also asked President Obama to deny all permits for any type of geological and geophysical (G&G) activities in the Atlantic Ocean, including seismic testing. These letters are signed by myself and hundreds of other members and supporters of BAPAC, in addition to the association itself.
- On March 30, 2017, at 4:00 p.m., myself and other members of BAPAC met with BOEM Acting Director Walter Cruickshank and his staff, along with Jim Schindler of the Department of Interior. At that time Mr. Cruickshank advised us that the seismic companies had appealed their permit denials. That meeting was the first time that we had notice of the appeals. I am unaware of any press on the appeals and neither myself or BAPAC had any notice of the appeals until that meeting on March 30th.
- 18. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. ' 1746, I declare, under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my professional opinion, knowledge and belief.

Signed on the 1st of May, 2017.

Frank Knapp, Jr.

VITA

Frank Knapp, Jr. 1717 Gervais Street Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 765-2210 (w) (803) 600-6874 (cell)

Education

- * University of South Carolina, MA, Social Psychology, 1976
- * Indiana University of Pennsylvania, BA, Psychology, 1973

Professional Experience Summary

2017-Present	President, CEO and Co-Founder, Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast,
	Columbia, SC
2000-Present	President, CEO and Co-Founder, The SC Small Business Chamber of Commerce
	(www.scsbc.org), Columbia, SC
1991-Present	President, The Knapp Agency (Advertising/Public Relations, www.knappagency.com),
	Columbia, SC
1990- 1991	Partner, Bear, Mallard, Knapp and Pope (Political Consultants), Columbia, SC
1989-1990	Associate Director of Public Information, South Carolina ETV, Columbia, SC
1987-1989	Public Information Consultant, South Carolina ETV, Columbia, SC
1986-1987	Special Consultant, Div. of Public Safety Programs, Office of the Governor, Columbia, SC
1985-1986	Director of Marketing and Planning, Criminal Justice Management & Consulting, West
	Columbia, SC
1983-1985	Executive Director, Common Cause/South Carolina, Columbia, SC
1981-1983	District Manager, American Family Life Assurance Company, Columbia, SC
1979-1981	President, Frank Knapp & Associates, Columbia, SC
1977-1979	Criminal Justice Planner, Div. of Public Safety Programs, Office of the Governor,
	Columbia, SC
1976-1977	Director, Planning and Research, Lexington County Sheriff's Dept., Lexington, SC
1974-1976	Instructor, Psychology Department, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Publications, Studies and Presentations

Knapp, Frank Jr. The effect of stress on quality of performance and alienation. Presented at the Eastern Regional Psi Chi Colloquium, Moravian College, 1973.

Knapp, Frank Jr. and McClure, Lawrence F. Quasi-experimental evaluation of a quality of life intervention. <u>Journal of Community Psychology</u>, 1978, <u>6</u>, 280-290.

Knapp, Frank Jr. and Washington, Carey A. Study conducted on drunkenness offenders. <u>Carolina Law</u>, 1978, <u>28</u>, No. 5, 44-47.

Knapp, Frank Jr. The practitioner's view. Panel discussion of the application of Social Psychology to Law, Society of Southeastern Social Psychologists Conference, University of Georgia, 1978.

Knapp, Frank Jr. Police education: A South Carolina perspective of the report of the National Advisory Commission on Higher Education for Police Officers. <u>Carolina Law</u>, 1979, <u>29</u>, No. 2, 34-40.

Knapp, Frank Jr., Sharkley, James A., and Metts, James R. The effects of an increase in a county sheriff's department's patrol capability. <u>Journal of Police Science and Administration</u>, 1980, <u>8</u>, 5-14.

Knapp, F., Mason, S.E., Metts, J.R., and Starkey, J.A. The Effects of a Residential Deputy Program on Perceived Law Enforcement Services. Southern Journal of Criminal Justice, Fall, 1980.

"The Other Side," <u>Independent News of Irmo</u>, Weekly editorial column on politics and government. 1985-1986.

Knapp, Frank Jr., The Privatization of Public Prisons. <u>Business & Economic Review</u>, (College of Business Administration, University of South Carolina), 1986, <u>32</u>, No. 2, 9-13.

"The Feasibility of an Alternative Facility for the Incarceration of DUI Offenders." Study prepared for Greenville County, South Carolina, September, 1986.

Television Programs Produced

"Capitol View", an S.C. ETV 30-minute, weekly public affairs program (1987-90) featuring taped one-on-one interviews with members of the South Carolina General Assembly.

"ALABAMA Presents: Concert Hugo", a three-hour, live program featuring a concert by the country group ALABAMA along with interviews with the band, radio personalities, and prominent South Carolinians. The S.C. ETV broadcast was a fundraiser for the Hugo Relief Fund. The 1990 program generated \$51,000 in pledges and the highest ratings for any S.C. ETV program.

Radio Programs Produced and Hosted

Created and hosted weekday afternoon talk show, U Need 2 Know (WGCV-AM), Columbia, SC (February 2007-November 2016).

Hosted the "Small Business Forum", a once a week, one-hour talk show (WCEO-AM), Columbia, SC (October 2003-December 2004).

Wrote and produced "The Jefferson Report", a 90-second syndicated radio political commentary, Columbia, SC (1993-1999).

Video Documentary Produced

Produced, wrote, directed and funded 2003 video documentary "Sherman's March: Final Revenge" (www.shermansrevenge.com).

Boards

Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast (2016-present)

U.S. Small Business Administration District IV Regulatory Fairness Board Chair (2015–present).

American Sustainable Business Council Board of Directors Co-Chair (2012-present).

South Carolina Small Business Development Center Advisory Board (2012–present).

University of South Carolina Regional Small Business Development Center Advisory Board (2005-2010). Common Cause-South Carolina, Chair (1981-1982).

Awards

U.S. Small Business Administration 2014 South Carolina Small Business Financing Advocate of the Year. American Sustainable Business Council 2013 Partner of the Year.

Sierra Club-South Carolina 2011 Media Person of the Year.

PBS 1988 Advertising & Promotion Award for Institutional Promotion in a Large Market – "From Budget Cuts to New Building."

Other

South Carolina Electric and Gas SCE&G Energy Efficiency Advisory Group (2011-present) Leadership South Carolina, Class of 1985.

Chairman of Citizens' Committee on Drug and Alcohol Abuse in Lexington County Public Schools, 1984.

Exhibit 2

President Barack Obama The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500

December 13, 2016

Dear Mr. President:

We, the Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast (BAPAC), represent over 35,000 businesses and 500,200 commercial fishing families from Maine to Florida, and are writing to call on you to permanently protect the Atlantic from offshore oil and gas drilling, and to deny all Atlantic seismic airgun blasting permits.

BAPAC recognizes that offshore oil and gas activities are fundamentally at odds with our economies and our way of life. Our currently thriving East Coast businesses are reliant upon healthy ocean ecosystems and are inextricably tied to clean, coastal waters. Oil and gas exploration and development activities threaten the vibrant coastal environment that supports nearly 1.4 million jobs and contributes \$95 billion to the annual gross domestic product, mainly through tourism, commercial fishing and recreation.

We applaud your Administration's decision to remove the Atlantic from offshore drilling through 2022. Now it is time to give permanent protection to the Atlantic Coast.

If protected, the Atlantic coast has a lot to give this country for generations to come. We implore you to protect our businesses and our communities by permanently banning offshore drilling and denying seismic exploration off our coast. With the incoming administration's position on expanding dirty and dangerous drilling activities, it is more important than ever to instill this permanent protection to the Atlantic. Such offshore activities are a direct threat to our local economies, our bountiful ocean environment, and the very fabric of our coastal communities.

Sincerely,

Frank Knapp

President & CEO

South Carolina Small Business Chamber of

Commerce

Aimee Taylor

Executive Director

Virginia Beach Restaurant Association

Thomas Kies

President and CEO

Carteret County Chamber of Commerce

Marilou Halvorsen

President and CEO

New Jersey Restaurant and Hospitality

Association

Susan Jones

Executive Director

Ocean City Hotel-Motel-Restaurant

Association

Karen Brown

President & CEO

Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

Vicki Clark

President & CEO

Cape May County Chamber of Commerce

Diana Burke

Executive Director

Virginia Beach Hotel Association

Vicki Clark

NJTIA, President

New Jersey Tourism Industry Association

Niaz Dorry

Coordinating Director

Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance

Stephen Shaff

Executive Director

Chesapeake Sustainable Business Council

Michael Green

Executive director

Climate Action Business Association

Fran Teplitz

Executive Co-Director

Green America's Green Business Network

Jamee Haley

Executive Director

Lowcountry Local First

Karen Forget

Executive Director

Lynnhaven River NOW

Tonya Bonitatibus

Executive Director

Savannah Riverkeeper

Pete Beyda

Owner, CEO

7 Mile Brewery LLC

Rich Rollason

Owner

Advanced Pool Resurfacing

Craig Knowlton

Vice President of Business Development

Alder Energy Systems

Alice Timmons

Owner

Alice L Timmons, LMFT

Barry Ambrose

President

Ambrose Furniture Inc.

Marcia Kite

Owner

Aurora Wellness Services

Jill Bennett

President

B.Suits Inc.

Sandra Bundy

Broker-in-Charge

B&P, Inc.

Damon Scarpelli

Owner

Banks Channel

Wendy Ray

CFO

Beach Mart Inc

Millie Aven

Owner

Bike Barn Inc

Robert Steenrod

Owner

Billmae Cottage LLC

Chris Sermons

Owner

Bio-Way Farm

Julie Starke

Creative Director Blue Mind Life

Heather Tallent

Owner

Blue Planet Scuba

Gaynel Marie McCary

Owner

Bodie Island Welcome Center

Brenda Quidley

President

Brendrick Inc

Randi Friel

Event Coordinator

Cape May Brewing Company

Bruce Rowland

CFO

Carolina Vapor Mill

Debbie Carter

Part owner and Sec./Treas.

Caughman Enterprises, Inc.

Russell Robinson

Owner

Channels

Charles Johnson

Owner

Charles Johnson

Joe Lotts

Owner

Charleston Outdoor Adventures

Robin Holton

Executive Director

Children @ Play Museum of the Outer

Banks

Christina Trapani

Owner

Christina Trapani Consulting

Christopher Galton

owner

Christopher Galton LPC

Alex Wolcott

CEO

Coastal NC Development

Lisa Toney

President

Coastside Realty, Inc.

Pamela Worsham

Owner

Cocoa Beach Parasail

Stephen Shaff

Founder

Community-Vision Partners, Benefit LLC

Duffy Pappas

Owner

Continental Divide

Paulette Sullivan

Partner

Cooper River Coffee

Stephen Cafiero

Owner

Coronation Sheet Metal Co.

Laura Habr

Co-owner/Vice President

Croc's 19th Street Bistro

Crystal Polston

Owner

Crystal Blue Productions

Judy Lotas

1st vice Chair

Dare County Democratic Party

Leda Zimmerman

Pricipal

dba RiverRun Media

Janis Markopoulos

Owner

Delmarva Board Sport Adventures

John DiGenni

Owner

DiGenni's Centennial Guest House

Rebecca Smith

Owner

Dirt Enterprise

Joel Michello

Owner

Dive Services Inc.

Lisa Abouassali

Member

DLS Properties, LLC

Robert Muller

Vice President

Don and Catharine Bryan Cultural Sereis

Donald Moorhead

Donald R Moorhead PA

George Kotarides

Owner

Doughs Boy's Pizza Restaurants

Geddes Dowling

President

Dowling Architects and Associates, Inc.

Amy Hawkins

Owner

Dr. Amy Hawkins ND LLC

Caroline Robinson

Owner

Drift

Amanda J Grondin

Owner/Operater

Duna Fisheries, LLC

William Galindo

CEO

Eco Realty Carolina

John Hawa

Treasurer

El Hawa Corporation

Jennifer Koontz

Owner, Creative Director

Epic Shutter Photography

Patricia Hitopoulos

Owner

Everyday Gourmet, Inc

Gina Perez

Owner

Fiddle Farms

Lucille Lamberto

Owner and Proprietor

Fiddler's Green Guest House

Laik ePEa

General Manager

First Colony Inn

Abby Carey

Owner

First flight adventure park

Richard Brendel

Owner

Flipper Finders

Heather Atwood

President

Food For Thought

Gary Beatty

Owner

Fresh Seafood USA

Paul Manning

Officer

Front Porch Cafe

Jeff Tant

Owner

Full Circle Gardens & Landscapes

William Galindo

CEO

Galgar LLC

Jane Ochsenbein

Full Partner

Gator Bait Adventure Tours

Jonathon Collins

Owner

Giant Slice Pizza

Angela Sanfilippo

President

Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Associoation

Ellin Goetz

President

Goetz+Stropes Landscape Architects Inc.

Richard Jones

Member/Manager

Good Hops Brewing LLC

Lacey DeBoer

GM

Grand Victorian Spring Lake

E Bergmann

Owner

Green Futures

James Williams

Owner

Hairoics, inc

Carl Hammond-Beyer

Vice President

Hammond-Beyer Health Center

Matt Pittaluga

Owner

Hank Sauce LLC

Elizabeth Hoffmier

LCSW, Owner

Harvest Moon Counseling

Kevin Scalia

President

Hatteras Island Boardsports

Barton Decker

Owner

Hatteras Island Surf and Sail Shop

Bill Holt

Manager

Holt-Cochran LLC

Dr. Kathy Clarke

Owner

Home by the Bay

Margaret Howell

Owner and President

Howell Consulting Group, L.C.

James Schwartz

Co-Owner

Independence Solar

Lisa Burdsall

Owner

Inspired Thrift Store

David Henderson

Owner

Integration Massage and Bodywork

Michael Mercker

Owner

iproducevideo

Ruth Fordon

Partner

Island Path

Amy Sawyer

Owner

Island Wellness Market

Pete Prioleau

Vice President/CFO

J W P Construction of SC, LLC

John Hegarty

President

J. Hegarty and Sons Inc

James Woodson

President

James C. Woodson DDS PA

Kristi Falco

Owner

Jolyn Mid-Atlantic LLC

Jerry Ravnitzky

Partner

Judith Ravnitzky Antiques

James Eaton

Owner

Just For the Beach Rentals

Kate Silvia

Owner

Kate Silvia Photography

Ryan Rhodes

Owner

Kayak Tours

Sarah Harrison

Co-owner

Kelley Gray's Garage

Kathy McCullough-Testa

President & CEO

KMT Consultants, Inc.

Joe Thompson

Owner/President

Koru Village Resort and Spa

Sally Murphy

President

La MER. Inc.

Leslie Hornfeck

Owner

Leslie's Vacation Rentals

Francee Levin

Owner

Levin Consultants

Meredith Loughlin

Co-owner

Lone Leaf Gallery and Custom Framing

Luke Hamlet

Owner

Long Beach Surf Shop

Phil Waters

Owner

Lowcountry Engineering Consultants, LLC

Banff Luther

Owner

Luther Marine Maintenance

Dave Stickle

President

M.H.E. Inc

Chad Coffin

President

Maine Clammers Association

M. Suzanne Stark

Owner

Making Waves Studio

Brian McDonald

President / General Manager

McAir, Inc. dba Outer Banks Heating &

Cooling

Lynn Vandervoort

Co-owner

McNamaras Heating and Cooling

Kyle McGetrick

Owner

Mellow Militia, LLC

Mickey Baker

Owner

MERMAID'S FOLLY

Bianca Piccillo

Owner

Mermaid's Garden, Incorporated

Stephanie Dahlberg

Vice President

Midlands Neigbborhood Publications

Mary Erickson

Owner

Mineral Title Associates, LLC

Debra Moorhead

Vice President

Moorhead Mediation, LLC

Rick Baumann

Founder

Murrells Inlet Seafood

Nancy Grumman

Owner

Nancy Grumman Art Studio

Matt Gamble

Marine educator

Nature Adventures Outfitters

Carla Reynolds

President

NC 12 Realty

Michael Forgie

Owner

Next Step Connect

Jason Heilig

Owner/Manager

Noble Crescendo, LLC

Jerry Rivers

Environmental Scientist

North American Climate, Conservation and

Environment(NACCE)

Allison Osmon

President

North State Landscaping and Lawn Care

Donald King

Owner

Ocean Blvd., LLC

Brian Klauser

Owner

OceanAir Sports

Brian Vaughn

Owner

Off The Hook Fishing Charters

Terri Gould

Owner

One of a Kind Gallery, Charleston SC

Rob Weltner

President

Operation SPLASH

Lisa Ortega

Owner

Ortega'z Grill

Marjorie Knapp

Owner/Director

Outer Banks Centre for Dance

Chris Hess

President

Outer Banks Intenet, Inc.

Michelle Smith

Owner

Outer Banks Yoga

Richard Bubnowski

Owner

Paddle Surf New Jersey LLC

Patsy Hancock

Owner

Pat Hancock Real Estate, LLC

Paul Sabadash

President

Paul Sabadash Real Estate Broker with Sun

Realty

Peter Penniman

Owner

Penniman Apartments

Patricia Broom

President

Phoenix Restoration

Robby Roberts

Owner

Pure Board Shop

Lilias Morrison

President

Real Escapes, Ltd.

Mary Burkart

DVM MS

Roanoke Island Animal Clinic

Suzanne Woolard

Owner

Rooster's Southern Kitchen

Tamela Walter

Owner

Rover Tours, Inc.

Lucinda Hudgins

Owner

S& L Hudgins, Inc DBA Toomy's natural

Foods Market

Mike Pennington

COO

Sabar sc LLC

David Sage

President

Sage Sailing, Inc.

Alex McCune

General Manager

Saint Waves Seafood and produce

Cheryl Mascioli

Owner

Salty Sea Studios

Sandra Sobanski

Owner

Sandyluvshells

David Facenda

Owner

Sea Swept LLc

Michael Dimin

Founding Director

Sea to Table

Malia Sanchez

Manager

Sealand Adventure Sports

Dave Smith

Owner

Senior Express Services

Dave Smith

Owner

Senior Express USA

Sean Cook

Co Founder

Shuckin Shack Oyster Bar

Paul Saucier

Owner

Soil Pros

Claire Conley

Manager

SoundSide Pools, Inc.

Tim Henson

Owner

Southern Coast Vacations

Larry Barker

Vice President

Southern Insurance Agency

Christine Maw

Owner

Special Events With Chris

John Spruill

Owner / Manager

Spruill Farm

Donna Farmer

Private Practice

Still Point Office

Benton Wislinski

Principal

Strategic Communication, LLC

Robert Walker

Publisher/Co-Owner

Suite P Inc.

Logan Alfred Raciti

Owner

Sunrise Surf & Skateboard Shop

Cody Leutgens

Owner

Surf City Surf School

Terra Pascarosa

Director

TerraScapes Environmental

Glenn Kithcart

Innkeeper

The Bentley Inn

Steven Nelson

President

The Inn on Pamlico Sound

Michael Watkins

President

The Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club

Morgan Mason

Co-Owner

The Outer Banks Real Estate Company LLC

Samantha Lock Brown

Owner

The Studio, Outer Banks

Charlie Garlow

Partner

TheGreenCommuter.com

Jane Fiedler

Social Media

Three Dog Ink

Matthew Notch

Owner/Operator

Top Notch Tree Care LLC

Isa Cohen

Marisa cohen

Tula adventure sports

Jonathan Floyd

Managing Partner

Twin Oaks Enterprises, Inc.

Jessica Moody

Co-Owner

Village Yoga

Vince Musi

Owner

Vincent J Musi

Trica Stopowski

Owner

wild about nature obx

Shelley Davis

Owner

Windswept Massage

Michele Darden

President

With a Twist Inc

William Gambrell

Owner

Tautogs Restaurant

Sheila Spencer

Owner

Sheila's Carolina Kitchen

Tony Ridgway

Owner

Cuisine Management, Inc.

Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast

1717 Gervais Street, Columbia, SC 29201, 803-252-5733

October 27, 2016

President Barack Obama The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We the undersigned businesses and organizations, representing over 12,000 businesses and 400,000 commercial fishing families, are writing to strongly oppose geological and geophysical (G&G) activities in the Atlantic Ocean, including but not limited to seismic airgun testing. Seismic airgun testing threatens our vibrant local coastal economies and is the first step towards dangerous offshore drilling.

Last month, Atlantic coast businesses came together to form a new coalition, the Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast (BAPAC), with the mission of ensuring the long term health and economic vitality of the Atlantic seaboard through responsible stewardship of the coastal and ocean waters. The Alliance represents thousands of businesses and is opposed to seismic testing for oil and gas in the Atlantic. We support the Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast.

In March 2016, the Department of the Interior removed the proposed Atlantic lease sale from the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Program. With the Atlantic Ocean withdrawn from the current offshore drilling plans, seismic airgun testing is unnecessary, would significantly impact coastal economies—in particular our commercial fishing and tourism industries—and should not proceed.

Seismic airgun testing for subsea oil and natural gas deposits is an extremely disruptive activity in the ocean. A significant body of peer-reviewed science has demonstrated that seismic airgun testing can cause the catch rates of some commercial fish species to plummet, displace fish over large areas, and broadly disrupt the feeding and breeding behaviors of whales and other marine life. Seismic also invites offshore drilling and the industrialization of our coast. Communities along the Atlantic coast rely on healthy ocean ecosystems to support the nearly 1.4 million jobs and to continue to contribute \$95 billion to the annual gross domestic product, mainly through fishing, tourism and recreation.

Although the Atlantic Ocean is protected from oil and natural gas drilling for now, G&G exploration using seismic airgun testing continues to threaten productive fisheries, marine organisms, and ocean ecosystems. As business owners and business organizations concerned about the economies of our

Atlantic Coast states, we ask that you protect our ocean resources from unnecessary harm and deny all current and future G&G oil and gas permits in the Atlantic Ocean.

Sincerely,

Frank Knapp Jr.

Frank Krops f

South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce

Business Organizations:

Climate Action Business Association (CABA)

Cape May County Chamber of Commerce

Carteret County Chamber of Commerce

Chesapeake Sustainable Business Council

Green America's Business Network

Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition

Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance

Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

Savannah Riverkeeper

South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce

The Duck Merchant's Association

Full List:

7 Mile Brewery, LLC

A1 Taxicab LLC

AIL

Alice L Timmons., LLC

Aurora Electric Inc

B&P, Inc.

Balanced meridian

Beach Mart Inc

Berkshire Hathaway HS Fox & Lazo

Better World Club

BG Financial Advisors, LLC

Bob construction LLC

Borough of Stone Harbor

Brauer Holdings, Inc.

CABA

Cape May Brewery

Cape May County Chamber of Commerce

Cape Publishing, Inc.

CAROLINA COUNTERTOP

Carolina Designs Realty, Inc.

Carteret County Chamber of Commerce

Charleston Shirt Factory

Chesapeake Sustainable Business Council

COMPACT II, INC.

Corolla Wild Horse Fund

CPC Industrial

Croc's 19th Street Bistro

Dammit.1050 dba HyperCyb.org

Dare County Democratic Party

Decka Inc

Dirt Enterprises

Dog Friendly Billmae Cottage

Earth Friendly Products

eCommerce Outdoors

Eileen Fisher, Inc.

Errol for Avon

Feather Your Nest

Fine D. Zine

FLORIDA OBX, LLC

Gaiss' Market

Global Urban Solutions

Green America's Green Business Network

Greenvest

Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition

Half Moon Outfitters

Hammond-Beyer Health Center

HEA LLC

Home consumers

Hornsby computer

HotelGuides.com

Ibis Communications

Inland Shrimp Company/FreshSeafoodUSA

JCEDC

Just for the beach rentals

LaMER, Inc.

Leith Hall Bed and Breakfast

Loftis Timber

Lowcountry Engineering Consultants, LLC

Lowcountry Estuarium

Maguire Therapy Services, inc.

mako mikes restaurant

McMahon Agency Inc.

Meyers Management, LLC

Midgette Auto Supercenter

Midlands Neighborhood Publications

MWJ Real Estate Solutions

Nature Adventures Outfitters

Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance

OceanFirst Bank

Outer Banks Centre for Dance

Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

Outer Banks Heating & Cooling

Outer Banks Paddleobard

Outer Banks Realty Group, LLC

Outer Banks Voice

Pawleys Island Pharmacy of Litchfield

Phoenix Restoration

Plants As Art

Poseidon Ventures, Inc.

Project Green Light, Inc

Property Management

Real Escapes Ltd

Rover Tours, Inc.

Savannah River Keepers

Savannah Riverkeeper

Savannah Riverkeeper

SC Lowcountry Tourism Commission

Sea Mountain Spirits, Inc.

Sea Swept LLC & The Duck Merchant's Association

ServiceMaster of the Shore Area

site-image, llc

SolVen Hospitality

SoundSide Pools, Inc.

South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce

Stockton Inns

Sun Realty Corolla NC

Surf Song Beach Resort Rental Program

SUTHERLAND COMPANY

The Inn on Pamlico Sound

Third Avenue Partners

Town of Nags Head

Town of Nags Head

Tycoon Tackle, Inc.

Unruly

Visiting Angels of Northeastern NC Inc

Window Genie of South Jersey

Wise Brown Enterprises

Wright Consulting & Training, Inc.