



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Pat McCrory  
Governor

Donald R. van der Vaart  
Secretary

February 12, 2015

The Honorable Abigail Ross Hopper, Director  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Hopper:

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) consistently stresses the importance of public engagement in the Five Year Program Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas leasing, exploration and development process. As part of that process, BOEM has scheduled a series of open house meetings where the public can learn more about the process, proposed leasing activities and communicate directly with BOEM staff. However, only one open house meeting is scheduled for North Carolina - in Wilmington, the southeastern corner of the state.

North Carolina has a vast coastline that spans more than 300 miles. Considering the geographic distance and travel time between our state's northern and southern coast, I support the request made by Congressman Walter B. Jones to BOEM that it host an additional meeting in a location more accessible to citizens in the Outer Banks and along the northeastern coast. A second meeting will grant all of North Carolina's coastal citizens the opportunity to learn more about and participate in the process.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Donald R. van der Vaart  
Secretary  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources