

America's coasts define the landscape across which a critical national discussion is unfolding. From new hydrokinetic technologies to a program that harnesses energy from the recycling of derelict fishing gear, citizens here in our district and across the country are developing real solutions for a clean energy economy. Along the Central Coast, our economy depends on healthy marine ecosystems, and I remain committed to preserving the health and integrity of our ocean and coasts. While any increase in domestic energy production requires that we use our national resources, ultimately we gain nothing when we threaten our environment in the process. That's why President Obama has coupled his request to support domestic energy projects with oversight and continued investments in research and development.

There are too many risks associated with oil drilling. Most recently, the 2010 BP-Deepwater Horizon disaster decimated the economy and the coastal ecosystem of the Gulf of Mexico, and I am not willing to risk an oil spill of similar magnitude in Central Coast waters. Since the end of a federal ban on oil and gas leasing and development in federal waters in 2008, reasonable aspirations for energy independence and job creation have spurred reckless legislation, including an unprecedented funding measure in the transportation reauthorization. This bill -- which expands oil shale exploration, opens new offshore leasing and drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and weakens drilling regulations -- poses an unacceptable level of risk to our environment and human safety. I strongly oppose these actions and voted against the bill. Furthermore, I joined my colleagues in CA to support amendments specifically to protect California's coast from offshore drilling.

Over the coming year, I will maintain my strong opposition to short-sighted ocean and energy policies. I firmly believe that we as a nation have both the brain power and will power to find better solutions that will facilitate responsible resource use. Energy legislation must balance our needs with the environmental protections that we've come to expect in California.

Bills of which I am an original cosponsor:

- H.R. 612, the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2011: to prohibit oil and natural gas exploration and production off California, Oregon, and Washington.
- H.R. 492, the Big Oil Bailout Prevention Act of 2011: to remove the liability limit of a responsible party during and after an oil spill.
- H.R. 261, the No New Drilling Act: to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit the exploration, development, or production of oil, gas, or any other mineral on the outer Continental Shelf.
- H.R. 1568 Oil Pollution Research and Development Program Reauthorization Act of 2011, updates and amends the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

- H.R. 1689 Big Oil Welfare Repeal Act of 2011, denies an income tax deduction for major integrated oil companies.
- H.R.492, Big Oil Bailout Prevention Act of 2011, removes limit on liability for clean up after spill.
- H.R. 501 Implementing the Recommendations of the BP Oil Spill Commission Act of 2011, establishes legislative framework to enable Commission recommendations.