

**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 23, 2025

Dr. Walter Cruickshank  
Acting Director  
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Dr. Cruickshank:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources at a legislative hearing on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, on the following bills:

- **H.R. 513 (Rep. Higgins)**, "*Offshore Lands Authorities Act of 2025*"
- **H.R. 931 (Rep. Downing)**, To allow certain Federal minerals to be mined consistent with the Bull Mountains Mining Plan Modification, and for other purposes.
- **H.R. 2250 (Rep. DelBene)**, "*National Landslide Preparedness Act Reauthorization Act of 2025*"
- **H.R. 2556 (Rep. Hunt)**, "*Comprehensive Offshore Resource Evaluation Act of 2025*" or the "*CORE Act of 2025*"
- **H.R. 3168 (Rep. Valadao)**, "*National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2025*"
- **H.R. 3176 (Rep. Begich)**, To amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to reauthorize the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System.

Your testimony was extremely helpful in defining the Subcommittee's understanding of the issues and I appreciate the effort you took to prepare and present your testimony. While many questions were asked during the hearing, the Subcommittee has additional questions, attached, for your reply.

Please forward your responses to Jacob Greenberg, Legislative Assistant, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, at [Jacob.Greenberg@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jacob.Greenberg@mail.house.gov) by June 9, 2025. Your assistance in meeting this deadline is requested, as failure to meet it will be noted in the printed transcript.

Once again, thank you for your extensive effort in making this a valuable hearing.

Sincerely,



Pete Stauber  
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources  
Chairman

Enclosure

**Committee on Natural Resources**  
**Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources**  
**Legislative Hearing**  
**1324 Longworth House Office Building**  
**May 20, 2025**  
**2:00 PM**

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**Questions from Rep. Daniel Webster** for Dr. Walter Cruickshank, Acting Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, U.S. Department of the Interior

1. Florida’s first offshore pipeline—more than 580 miles long, including 431 miles underwater—delivers up to 1.1 billion cubic feet of clean-burning natural gas every day, enough to power 4.5 million homes. It was built by 2,500 workers over the course of a year and is a major backbone of our state’s energy reliability. Given that a majority of this supply comes from offshore production in the central and western Gulf, don’t you think it’s critical that we maintain accurate and science-based assessments of those offshore resources, as required in the CORE Act, to ensure Florida’s continued access to affordable and reliable energy?

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**Questions from Rep. Sarah Elfreth** for Dr. Walter Cruickshank - Acting Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

1. The Department of Defense published a report in 2015 entitled *DoD Mission Compatibility Planning Assessment: BOEM 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program*. Has BOEM received an updated report from the Department of Defense on offshore leasing related to military installations? If so, please attach a copy.
2. BOEM and the Department of the Defense operate under a Memorandum of Understanding on waters adjacent to military installations. What is the status of the most recent MOU?
3. In this current planning cycle, what is the timeline for engagement with the Department of the Defense?

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**Questions from Rep. Ansari** for Dr. Walter Cruickshank, Acting Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

1. Dr. Cruickshank, in response to my question during the hearing for an update on how many staff at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management have taken the buyout or early retirement offers, you responded “in the neighborhood of 100 people”. Could you please provide a more detailed response on the number of people who have taken the buyout, early retirement offers, or been fired at BOEM since the beginning of this administration? What proportion of total BOEM staff does that comprise? What program functions did these staff cover? Are there plans to backfill these vacancies and if so, which ones?
2. In response to my question about your engagement with DOGE employees, you responded that your engagement was largely focused on contracts and which contracts should be terminated and which should be continued. Who had the final decision-making authority on contract continuation, BOEM or DOGE? Can you provide a more detailed description of the process for deciding which contracts to terminate, a full list of the terminated contracts, and the provided justification for termination?

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**Questions from Rep. Huffman** for Dr. Walter Cruickshank, Acting Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

1. President Trump’s January 20<sup>th</sup> memorandum, “Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government’s Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects,” (90 FR 8363) claims “various alleged legal deficiencies underlying the Federal Government’s leasing and permitting of onshore and offshore wind projects” and “potential inadequacies in various environmental reviews required by the National Environmental Policy Act to lease or permit wind projects”. Please identify the alleged legal deficiencies and potential inadequacies in environmental reviews.
2. The review of the offshore wind leasing and permitting process initiated by this memorandum has been underway for over four months with no substantive updates. How is BOEM proceeding with this review, what is the agency considering in its review, and what is the expected timeline for completion?