



Tuesday, May 20th, 2025

Dear Members of the Natural Resources Committee:

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity grassroots activists across the country, we urge your support for Congressman Clay Higgins' H.R. 513 – the Offshore Lands Authorities Act of 2025.

During the Biden administration, last-minute presidential memoranda withdrew vast areas of federal lands in the Outer Continental Shelf from oil and gas lease sales. These actions immediately denied American taxpayers access to valuable resources critical to our economic security, national security, and energy reliability. While the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act grants the president authority to make such withdrawals, the use of that authority—originally written in the mid-20th century—to unilaterally withdraw 625 million acres without Congressional approval is unprecedented.

Thankfully, Congressman Higgins' legislation nullifies a number of offshore land withdrawals, including former President Biden's withdrawals of January 6, 2025, and limits the withdrawal a President can make to 150,000 acres for a period no longer than 20 years. No President may withdraw more than 500,000 acres cumulatively without Congressional approval. At a time when the nation needs additional energy resources and federal revenue, it is unwise to remove large swaths of the Outer Continental Shelf from productive use. Moreover, politically motivated decisions—such as President Biden's January 6, 2025, order—undermine public trust in the responsible stewardship of federal resources.

As the legislative branch, Congress has a duty to oversee policies governing the Outer Continental Shelf and ensure responsible productivity on federal lands and waters. Congressman Higgins' bill introduces common-sense reforms aligned with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's five-year offshore leasing plan, as mandated by Congress for the benefit of American taxpayers and consumers.

As the Energy & Mineral Resources Subcommittee considers this legislation today, we strongly urge your support—and ask that you continue to support it when it comes before the full committee for markup in the near future.

Sincerely,

Brent Gardner
Chief Government Affairs Officer
Americans for Prosperity \