Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 15, 2006

Mr. John Boehner
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Leader:

We understand that a bill to allow oil drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) may be one of the items considered during the remainder of the Congressional session. We opposed the House OCS bill (H.R. 4761) when it came before us in June, and we continue to do so. If the House needs to consider an OCS bill, we ought to take up the Senate-passed bill without any changes.*

The American people made clear on Election Day that it wants Congress to take pragmatic, targeted approaches to solving problems rather than engaging in ideological sparring. Continuing efforts to promote the House bill – which could open the entire U.S. coastline to oil drilling, and which would sweep away environmental protections, undermine local control, and increase the deficit – would signal that we have not gotten the message of Election Day.

We urge you to ensure that this sensitive issue is handled in the appropriate manner.

Sincerely,

Henry Boehlert

Wayne T. Gilchrest

Clare Kirk

Mike Castle

Sue Kelly

Christopher Shays

Kenny J. Ehlers

[illegible]

[illegible]

Nancy L. Johnson

Charles F. Bass

Jim Leach

[illegible]

[illegible]

This letter was signed by:

Boehlert	LaHood
Saxton	Gilchrest
Frelinghuysen	Gerlach
Kirk	Castle
Kelly	Shays
Ehlers	Bartlett
Ramstad	N. Johnson
Bass	Leach
Fitzpatrick	T. Johnson

* NOTE: This letter is not intended to suggest that all the signers would vote for the Senate bill, but rather that, if an OCS bill is brought to the floor, it should be the unamended Senate bill. Several Members who voted against H.R. 4761 did not sign this letter because they did want to say even that much about the Senate bill.