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**Statement of the Honorable Alcee L. Hastings**  
**Amendment to H.R. 1231, Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act**  
May 10, 2011

Mr. Chairman, increasing offshore drilling is a windfall for large energy companies responsible for the Exxon Valdez and BP Deepwater Horizon oil spills. At the same time, these companies are making record profits in the form of high gas prices for hardworking Americans. This is reckless and must be stopped.

For the past two weeks, my Republican colleagues have continued with their "drill baby drill" agenda on the House floor. Their policies are neither sustainable or environmentally sound.

In 2007, the Nobel Prize winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change declared that evidence of global warming was "unequivocal" and "most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic [human-related] greenhouse gas concentrations." Drilling off our country's shores will only exacerbate global climate change.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment will force Members of Congress to go on record by acknowledging the scientific consensus that fossil fuels contribute to global climate change. Ignorance of this issue can no longer be an excuse.



**The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings**  
**Description of Amendment to H.R. 1231, Reversing President Obama's Offshore**  
**Moratorium Act**  
**May 10, 2010**

Prohibiting any lease-sale from going forward where either the National Academy of Science or Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has determined the use by human beings of any non-renewable resource expected to be extracted from the subject property contributes to global climate change.

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1231**  
**OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA**

Add at the end the following:

1   **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . LIMITATION ON LEASE SALES FOR AREAS EX-**  
2                           **PECTED TO PRODUCE A NON-RENEWABLE**  
3                           **RESOURCE CONTRIBUTING GLOBAL CLIMATE**  
4                           **CHANGE.**

5       The Secretary of the Interior shall not include in any  
6 oil and gas leasing program under this Act (including the  
7 amendments made by this Act) any lease sale for any area  
8 that is expected to produce a non-renewable resource the  
9 use of which by human beings yields a greenhouse gas the  
10 National Academy of Science or Intergovernmental Panel  
11 on Climate Change has determined contributes to global  
12 climate change.





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

May 10, 2011  
(House Rules)

## STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

**H.R. 1231 – To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to require that each 5-year offshore oil and gas leasing program offer leasing in the areas with the most prospective oil and gas resources, to establish a domestic oil and natural gas production goal, and for other purposes.**

(Rep. Hastings, R-WA, and 69 cosponsors)

The Administration is committed to promoting safe and responsible domestic oil and gas production as part of a broad energy strategy that will protect consumers and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. That strategy, among other things, includes a balanced process to open new areas for leasing, prepare for the possibility of oil spills, and encourage responsible development of existing leases. The Administration opposes H.R. 1231, which would undermine and circumvent the transparent public process for determining which new areas are appropriate to lease.

H.R. 1231 would require the Department of the Interior (DOI) to open new areas on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to leasing without any discretion to determine which areas are actually appropriate and safe for exploration and development. The bill would have the effect of mandating OCS lease sales along the entire East Coast, offshore California, and elsewhere, without providing states and local citizens the opportunity to share views about where exploration should happen.

The Administration is developing a 5-year (2012-2017) comprehensive plan for offshore oil and gas exploration and production that incorporates lessons learned from the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. This plan, developed through a public review process, will assess which areas of the OCS are appropriate for future oil and gas leasing. In addition, the Administration is focusing on resources that are already available for development under existing plans. A recent DOI report shows that about 70 percent of leased offshore acres are not being explored or developed. Given the untapped potential of those areas, the Administration is pursuing a number of policies to promote timely and responsible development of those OCS leases.

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