



February 5th, 2018

Secretary Ryan Zinke
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

South Carolina's business community and the SC Chamber have long supported policies that promote energy independence and a robust supply of affordable energy that makes industry in our state more competitive. Obtaining a modern review of the resource potential off the Atlantic coast using the most current and safe seismic technology is a responsible next step to determining the most prudent path forward.

We are sensitive to the concerns about coastal tourism and potential impacts to the environment if exploration in the Atlantic were to go forward but opposing now without doing the due diligence and knowing what the options are would be irresponsible. South Carolina needs a seat at the table when it comes to assessing and studying what natural resources lie off our coast.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted Pitts". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Ted Pitts
President and CEO

1301 Gervais St.
Suite 1100
Columbia
South Carolina
29201

803/799-4601
Fax
803/779-6043

www.scchamber.net