

Testimony for Oregon SB 256

Georgia State Representative, Park Cannon

Dear Members of the State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs Committee:

Oregon is not alone in the effort to limit offshore drilling within its state waters. As Representative from the state of Georgia, I too am introducing legislation that would reduce the threats of offshore drilling to my state. In addition, eight other states representing a bulk of the U.S. coastline introduced bipartisan legislation that would either ban or restrict offshore drilling near their coastlines. These states include Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and South Carolina.

In Georgia, we understand that climate change is real and that we are elected at the state level to protect good jobs, clean water, and breathable air. Joining with NCEL members from coastal states to support state-based policy-making that propels us forward in renewable energy use has been a valuable effort. Together, we can increase public faith in the health of our environment by working to decrease toxic pollutants in our communities.

Coastal tourism, fisheries, shipping, and defense are the underpinning the coastal economy in Georgia and all other coastal states. Offshore drilling threatens our beaches and economies. That is not a risk that coastal states can afford to take. Rather than continuing to invest in the dirty fossil fuels of the past, we should be investing in clean, renewable energy of the future. I stand in support of these Representatives in their effort to limit offshore drilling.

Legislatively yours,
Representative Park Cannon
Georgia - District 58