

HB 787 (Villanueva)– Offshore Oil Development - Oppose

- This legislation expands the current state policy related to offshore natural gas and wind to promote drilling and development of oil resources as well
- Sierra Club opposes this change to the State's current policy to promote offshore oil development.
- The potential for an offshore oil spill is real and could devastate the tourism and recreational and commercial fishing off our coast. In 2009, a newly constructed oil rig off the coast of Australia experienced an oil spill that went uncontrolled for three months.
- Oil spills associated with the processing, handling and transport of the oil are a common occurrence related to petroleum processing and will degrade Virginia's natural environment.
- Developing Virginia's and the East Coast's oil resources would do nothing to reduce our growing dependence on foreign oil-the United States has only 3% of the world's oil reserves and we use 25% of the world's oil production.
- Virginia has the potential to be a leader on offshore wind manufacturing and generation with our Hampton Roads ports, marine facilities and manufacturing capacity. Renewable energy as a new industry is estimated to create 4 times more jobs than similar investments in the mature oil industry.