

**Offshore Drilling No “Silver Bullet” for Virginia:
Oppose SB 394 (Wagner, McDougall), SB601 (Wagner), SB 659**

- We support the Governor’s call for making Virginia a renewable energy leader: Virginia’s shallow coastal waters are ideal for developing offshore wind, wave, tidal, and ocean current energy resources. Virginia Coastal Energy Research Consortium (VCERC) has identified areas that could supply 20%/year of Virginia’s annual electricity demand.
 - Clean energy sources – wind and solar power, geothermal, and energy efficiency – will create more jobs more quickly than offshore drilling, with much less environmental harm. Renewable, sustainable sources will provide energy security for the long term.
- **Federal law prohibits revenue sharing with the exception of four Gulf States. Congress is unlikely to change its position from 2009 when a Senate panel in 2009 rejected by almost 2:1 a proposal to expand revenue sharing to other states.**
- **As recently as 2009 DOD has told MMS they oppose lease sale in this area.**
- **Lease Sale would threaten future of NAS Ocean, other naval forces in Hampton Roads and the NASA Wallops Flight Facility. The economic loss to Virginia would be devastating if these facilities were to move.** Department of Defense opposed the VA lease-sale in the 2007-2012 OCS plan.
 - NASA, noting that Virginia OCS leasing area is “beneath the previously approved launch vehicle flight corridors for launches,” said “. . . opening the Mid-Atlantic to oil and natural gas exploration and development and use of the ocean structures required would cause grave and adverse impact on critical national security programs . . . as well as upon the continued and historical operations of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport and the NASA Wallops Flight Facility.” [November 2008, Commercial Space Flight Authority
 - According to the best oil-industry estimates, offshore drilling in Virginia could add 1,582 jobs in seven years. The 15,000 jobs promised by some proponents will take some 30 years to materialize.
 - Tourism supports 210,000 jobs - generates \$18.7 billion/yr in VA Coastal areas, such as the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia Beach, are dependent on tourism: For example, saltwater sportsfishing accounts for 5,541 jobs, \$945 million to VA economy.
- Proponents claim offshore drilling would yield hundreds of millions of dollars in taxes. Yet Virginia and localities would be burdened with providing substantial services like fire and emergency response, for onshore processing and transmission facilities.
- Supply: drilling off Virginia’s Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) would barely register on the world market. The area off Virginia’s coast contains only 130 million barrels of oil & 1,140 billion cu. Ft. natural gas, which equals **6 days of oil and 18 days of natural gas.**
- Opening Virginia to drilling could threaten the economy: one spill, like the recent spill from an Australian offshore well (using state-of-the-art drilling technology) could be disastrous for Virginia’s tourism and fishing. Routine oil leaks and pollution from oil rigs could decrease fishing yields and sully our beaches, while onshore refineries and pipelines and increased ship traffic could hinder commercial and recreational fishing.
- **SB 659 reported from Senate ACNR 2/1 without hearings, discussion or opposition; it will shift resources from DEQ to write air regs for offshore drilling area.**