From:	<Kashieka_Minor@ios.doi.gov>
To:	Randal_Bowman@ios.doi.gov
Subject:	DCN: EST-00002118 - Please refrain from allowing any oil and gas activities in the Florida Keys; concerned about Executive Order and threat to Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Date:	Wednesday, May 17, 2017 5:52:57 AM
Attachments:	Nelson 5.1.17 .pdf

Please prepare a reply with surname from the Office of Congressional Liaison.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–0905

BILL NELSON
FLORIDA

May 1, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke and Secretary Ross,

I am gravely concerned that the Presidential Executive Order issued Friday, April 28th, represents a significant economic and environmental threat to Florida—and it violates both the spirit and the text of the law regarding National Marine Sanctuaries.

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) is a gem among many in Florida's tourism-based economy, generating $4.4 billion in annual revenue for the local community and supporting over 70,000 jobs. It is home to over 6000 species of marine life, the third largest living coral barrier reef system in the world, and an estimated 1,000 shipwrecks. Fourteen historic sites in Florida Keys NMS are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

This area is of such national importance that in response to environmental threats, including oil drilling, Congress designated the Florida Keys as a National Marine Sanctuary in 1990 "to protect and preserve living and other resources of the Florida Keys marine environment."

Against clear congressional intent, the president's Executive Order directs your departments to tally the oil and minerals contained in national marine sanctuaries like the Florida Keys—presumably by using seismic air gun blasts in some of the most sensitive and important habitats in our ocean.

Seismic testing and other preleasing drilling activities directly conflict with the laws that created the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and I strongly urge you to refrain from allowing any oil and gas activities in the Florida Keys.

2017 MAY -9 AM 11:17
OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

Senator Bill Nelson
U.S. Senator

DOI-2018-07 01275