**Virginia U.S. Congressional Delegation (Democrats) Letter to Secretaries Ross & Bernhardt**

**Google Drive:** <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1y0F1zYGcp05TcSi57fNPVxl9MivVbYim?usp=sharing>

**Press Release:** <https://mceachin.house.gov/media/press-releases/rep-mceachin-leads-members-va-congressional-delegation-letter-opposing-seismic>

**Hashtags:** #BlockTheBlast and #ProtectOurCoast

This letter requests that the Commerce Department revoke the five seismic IHAs issued late last November, requests that the Interior Department refrain from issuing the G&G permits in question, and states opposition to the inclusion of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the final 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

This toolkit contains:

* Sample tweets
* Sample Facebook posts
* Sample social media macros

**Handles:**

@RepMcEachin

@RepDonBeyer

@GerryConnolly

@RepElaineLuria

@BobbyScott

@RepSpanberger

@RepWexton

@timkaine

@MarkWarner

**Sample Tweets:**

#BREAKING [@INSERT MEMBER] and 8 other VA Members of Congress wrote @Interior & @NOAAFisheries to push back against seismic airgun blasting in the Atlantic. Seismic airgun blasting in search of offshore oil and gas deep below the seafloor is dangerous to marine life. #ThankYou Time to #BlockTheBlast #ProtectOurCoast

Municipalities up and down the Virginia coast oppose seismic airgun blasting. [@INSERT MEMBER] and 8 fellow members of Virginia’s congressional delegation are pushing back against seismic airgun blasting in the Atlantic and opening Virginia’s coast to dirty and dangerous offshore drilling. #ThankYou #BlockTheBlast #ProtectOurCoast

Thank [@INSERT MEMBER] for weighing in with @SecretaryRoss and Acting @Interior Sec. Bernhardt to protest seismic airgun blasting. These surveys are the first step in opening the Atlantic to dirty and dangerous offshore drilling. We must #BlockTheBlast and #ProtectOurCoast.

#BREAKING [@INSERT MEMBER] and colleagues gave notice to the Trump Administration today their opposition to seismic airgun blasting and drilling for oil and gas off Virginia’s coast. Thank you! #BlockTheBlast #ProtectOurCoast

**Facebook:**

#BREAKING: Nine members of Virginia’s U.S. congressional delegation have written Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Acting Interior Secretary Bernhardt to protest the Trump Administration’s plans to allow seismic airgun blasting in the Atlantic. Seismic airgun blasting in search of potential offshore oil and gas deposits deep below the seafloor is extremely loud and harmful to marine life. Exploratory drilling like BP *Deepwater Horizon*, which exploded in the Gulf eight years ago and caused the worst environmental disaster in U.S. history, would be the next step they take to confirm the presence of oil and gas. We must #ProtectOurCoast and #BlockTheBlast. Thank you @RepMcEachin, @timkaine, @MarkWarner, @RepDonBeyer, @GerryConnolly, @RepElaineLuria, @BobbyScott, @RepSpanberger, and @RepWexton.

Oil spills don’t respect state boundaries. Neither does seismic airgun blasting. Extremely loud noise from these dangerous blasts can disturb, injure, or kill marine life, harm commercial fisheries, and disrupt coastal economies. Our thanks to @RepMcEachin, @timkaine, @MarkWarner, @RepDonBeyer, @GerryConnolly, @RepElaineLuria, @BobbyScott, @RepSpanberger, and @RepWexton for their opposition to both this activity and drilling off the coast of Virginia. #BlockTheBlast #ProtectOurCoast