



For Immediate Release  
December 16, 2016

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## **Obama Should Grant Request to Protect California Coast From Drilling**

*Governor Brown Can Lead by Example With Protections Against Oil Industry Pollution*

Sacramento, CA—Governor Jerry Brown is urging outgoing President Barack Obama to remove federal waters off California's coast from potential future oil and gas development. In a letter to the president, Brown points out that “large new oil and gas reserves would be inconsistent with our overriding imperative to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and combat the devastating impacts of climate change.”

“It's easy to ask for someone else's leadership, but harder to demonstrate it. We are encouraged by Governor Brown's strong stand against new offshore drilling and urge the Obama administration to do the right thing before time runs out,” said Catherine Garoupa White, coordinator of Californians Against Fracking & Dangerous Drilling. “Governor Brown must also lead by example. Climate leadership requires swift actions to phase out all fossil fuel extraction—not just offshore, but everywhere. To protect our environment and public health from oil industry pollution, California needs a ban on extreme extraction.”

Brown's letter follows Donald Trump's nomination of ExxonMobil's Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State and Scott Pruitt, the Oklahoma attorney general who has blasted environmental regulations, as the head of the Environmental Protection Agency. These nominations show an administration bent on unraveling federal efforts to combat human-caused climate change. Brown has received international attention with his recent declarations and fiery statements against the Trump administration's industry-friendly appointments. Yet Brown himself has not implemented the recommendations contained in the California Council on Science and Technology report about the potential risks from extreme extraction.

“In the uncertain future under a Trump administration, we need figures like Governor Brown to tackle the climate challenge on all fronts,” said David Braun, Director of Rootskeeper, a member of the CAF coalition. Rootskeeper is a grassroots training and advocacy organization which pushes against toxic fossil fuel extraction

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methods by developing and empowering grassroots leaders and networks. “While we applaud Jerry Brown for advocating for a ban on offshore oil drilling to address climate change, Brown should ban extreme extraction practices like fracking, acidizing and urban oil drilling, which not only exacerbate climate change, but hurt California communities, causing sickness and polluting our water, air and food.”

Clearly, Californians and people across the globe are looking to leaders like Governor Brown to act aggressively to counteract any backsliding under the incoming Trump administration.

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