

I voted Yes on H.R. 6082, which would modify the Administration's offshore drilling plan to allow for more domestic energy production which will lessen our dependence on foreign oil and make the United States less reliant on hostile foreign regimes to meet our domestic energy needs.

The Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Act mandates that when the President proposes a new five-year offshore drilling plan, it must be submitted to Congress for a mandatory 60-day review before it can take effect. In accordance with the Act, I voted for this replacement plan to re-open several offshore areas for energy exploration originally contained in the President's 2009 draft plan that were later discarded.

Specifically, this plan would implement a new lease schedule for 29 lease sales instead of the 15 proposed by the President—the lowest number ever offered since 1980. In contrast to the President's plan, which places 85 percent of all federal OCS land off-limits to energy exploration, some of which was previously open for exploration, H.R. 6082 will actually increase domestic energy production, generate hundreds of millions in federal revenues, and put thousands of Americans back to work.

H.R. 6082 was approved by a vote of 253 – 170.