

LEON E. PANETTA  
16TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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MAJORITY REGIONAL WHIP

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515**

April 26, 1983

*File: Political Correspondence*

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Ms. Kathleen Jones  
2860 Halcyon Road  
Arroyo Grande, California 93420

Dear Ms. Jones:

Thank you for contacting my district office to express your interest in my legislation -- H.R. 2059 -- to exempt certain federal offshore areas from oil and gas leasing. I appreciate your interest in this important matter.

As my aide, Michael Case, mentioned to you in your recent conversation with him, H.R. 2059 has been referred to the House Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittee on Mining, Forest Management and Bonneville Power Administration. I recently joined Rep. Gerry Studds in urging Rep. Weaver, the Chairman of the Subcommittee, to hold hearings on H.R. 2059 as soon as possible. I am hopeful that the Subcommittee will honor that request. As Mr. Case mentioned, the legislation would prohibit oil and gas leasing from Pismo Beach north to the Oregon border, in addition to protecting southern California and Massachusetts Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) areas. For your information, I have enclosed the text of H.R. 2059, and maps of the area it affects.

I appreciate your interest in protecting the Nipomo Dunes area from the detrimental effects of offshore oil and gas leasing. You may be interested to know that, during consideration of a funding restriction which prohibited California federal offshore leasing from Morro Bay north, Congress adopted at my request language which specifically acknowledged the sensitivity of fragile nearshore areas south of Morro Bay. This Congressional recognition of the sensitivity of these areas is an important first step. You can be sure that I will continue to pursue viable opportunities for protections of these valuable tracts.

Again, thank you for contacting me. I appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns over the Nipomo Dunes area, as well as your support for H.R. 2059. If you have any further questions or comments regarding this, or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

LEON E. PANETTA  
Member of Congress

LEP/mc  
Encl.