



State Energy &
Environmental Impact Center
NYU School of Law

Attorneys General Statements on Offshore Drilling

March 9, 2018

California Attorney General [Xavier Becerra](#)

“California has banned offshore drilling for two simple reasons: we don’t need it and we know what happens when it goes wrong. That’s why we are proudly leading the way on reducing dependence on fossil fuels – and we’re not turning back. If the Trump Administration ultimately tries to open our coasts to new offshore drilling, we will see them in court.”

Maryland Attorney General [Brian Frosh](#)

“Maryland’s coast and the Chesapeake Bay are among our most precious natural resources. The dangers that offshore drilling poses to our coastal environment and economy, including the Chesapeake Bay, are simply too great to accept. Instead of opening these areas to offshore drilling for fossil fuels, we should be focusing our efforts on increasing the development and use of wind, solar, and other forms of renewable energy.”

North Carolina Attorney General [Josh Stein](#)

“Protecting the people of North Carolina is my top priority – and that includes protecting our coastal economy’s tens of thousands of jobs and billions in economic activity. I will do whatever it takes to stand up for the thousands of North Carolinians and 30 coastal communities that have voiced their opposition to this reckless plan that jeopardizes North Carolina’s beautiful coast.”

New York Attorney General [Eric Schneiderman](#)

“The Trump Administration’s plan to turn over New York’s coast to big oil threatens our environment and our economy – and I stand ready to use the full power of my office to fight back if the administration won’t listen to New Yorkers’ opposition. The Trump Administration must follow the law and eliminate New York’s coastal waters from its senseless and dangerous drilling plan. If the Administration refuses, I will act to ensure our state’s economy, environment, and natural resources are protected.”

Oregon Attorney General [Ellen Rosenblum](#)

“I know I stand with millions of Oregonians when I say drilling off of our precious coast must not happen. Our oceans are one of Oregon’s shining jewels, and the hundreds of miles of pristine beaches, sand dunes and coastal harbors that make up the state are part of our DNA. Oregon’s rugged coastline will not be overtaken by oil rigs under our watch.”

Virginia Attorney General [Mark Herring](#)

“Simply put, we cannot afford to expose the Chesapeake Bay and our coastal communities to the significant risk of environmental contamination and degradation associated with offshore drilling. Coastal communities and local, state, and federal officials in Virginia and up and down the East Coast have expressed their opposition to this reckless expansion of drilling.

Unfortunately, President Trump and Secretary Zinke seem intent on ignoring these local voices, and instead plowing ahead with a giveaway to oil and gas companies. We will continue to make our objections known and will be ready to take any steps necessary, including potential legal action, to protect our coastal communities, economy, and environment.”