



May 9, 2025

Assembly Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1448 (Hart) -- SUPPORT**

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee ~ Chair Wicks, Vice Chair Sanchez, and Assemblymembers Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta and Tangipa:

The Center for Biological Diversity and The Environmental Defense Center are the proud cosponsors of [Assembly Bill 1448](#) (Hart). We join the undersigned organizations writing in strong support of AB1448, which is crucial to protect California's coastlines, wildlife, economy and communities from the threats posed by offshore oil and gas activities.

AB1448 will safeguard our coast against federal attempts to unlawfully open federal waters to new oil leasing off California. The Trump Administration has pledged to drill everywhere and will undoubtedly seek to expand Pacific offshore drilling. Current gaps in state law leave untoward paths for federal oil expansion through existing infrastructure in state waters. AB1448 takes a firm stand against efforts to expand drilling off our coast, to protect against associated risks to California interests.

Oil spills have historically caused significant damage to wildlife and marine habitats, leading to long-term environmental and economic harm. Trump's last offshore drilling plan predicted up to 148 oil spills off California, spewing as much as 2 million gallons of oil on our coast. This bill helps guard against such disasters by ensuring that existing oil platforms and pipelines in state waters cannot be repurposed to expand federal drilling.

Moreover, AB1448 addresses the need to prevent aging infrastructure from expanded or prolonged use when it should be retired. Offshore oil infrastructure has outlived its lifespan and presents significant risks. This bill requires strict environmental considerations for the reactivation of oil projects that have been shut down. Recent oil spills off our coast are stark reminders of the need to decommission — not restart — antiquated infrastructure. The 2015 Plains Pipeline oil spill and the 2021 San Pedro Pipeline spill killed hundreds of birds, marine mammals, and fish and caused more than \$200 million in clean-up and damage costs.

Over 150 million visitors a year enjoy California’s coastlines. Nearly 600,000 jobs and over \$42 billion in GDP rely on clean beaches and a healthy ocean<sup>1</sup>. According to a 2024 NOAA report, coastal tourism and recreation produced 47% of GDP and 67% of the employment of California’s marine economy<sup>2</sup>. That is compared with offshore mineral resources, which produced only 5% of GDP and 1% of the employment. These economic risks and benefits must be weighed appropriately. The coastal tourism and recreation sector, their employees, and their clients must be protected from the threat of another oil spill from California’s aging oil and gas infrastructure.

Protecting our climate, communities, and economy is paramount. AB1448 supports this goal by limiting greenhouse gas pollution from expanded federal oil and gas production. It also protects vulnerable California communities that neighbor polluting oil processing plants and refineries.

**We urge California to show climate leadership in the face of federal threats to ‘drill, baby, drill’ and we ask for your support to vote YES on AB1448.**

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to ensure the successful passage of AB1448, to safeguard our coast.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> *California’s Clean Coast Economy*. Oceana, [usa.oceana.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/4046/california.pdf](https://usa.oceana.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/4046/california.pdf). Accessed May 1, 2025.

<sup>2</sup> *2024 Marine Economy Report*. NOAA Office of Coastal Management, 2024, [coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/](https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/). Accessed 1 Sept. 2023.

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