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## Interior Department Hides Data to Support Delaying Offshore Energy Production

*Department of the Interior announces plans to delay OCS development*

WASHINGTON, D.C. –One hundred and twenty five days after the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program public comment period ended, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) has still not released the agencies findings. A Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request revealed that the agency has tabulated substantial comments and that they overwhelmingly support development of America's OCS resources by a 2 to 1 ratio.

**“The purpose of the comment period was to gauge the mood of the American people. And they responded, submitting over 530,000 comments, the majority of which were in favor of developing our Outer Continental Shelf,”** said Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform. **“It is about time the MMS came clean and publicly disclosed their findings.”**

Ignoring public sentiment, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced that he will delay OCS drilling until 2012; President Bush signed a plan into law that would have allowed development of America's Outer Continental Shelf in 2010.

**“It is disconcerting that the lack of transparency revelations and the suppression of the public's comments directly coincide with Secretary Salazar's unpopular decision to delay Outer Continental Shelf leasing and drilling,”** Norquist added. **“Certainly the American peoples' broad support of OCS drilling is due to the positive economic impact it would have. Authorizing OCS drilling would create more than 870,000 jobs which would add an additional \$270 billion in annual economic growth”**

Echoing these concerns, Representative Parker Griffith (R-AL) is gathering Congressional signatures on a letter to Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar opposing his decision. ATR has urged all Members to join Rep. Griffith's efforts.

***National Press & Talk Radio Alert:  
To schedule an interview with Grover Norquist  
call 202-785-0266 or email [jkartch@atr.org](mailto:jkartch@atr.org)***

*Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or at [jkartch@atr.org](mailto:jkartch@atr.org)*

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