

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Feb. 6, 2018

**Contact:** Cyrus Reed, [cyrus.reed@sierraclub.org](mailto:cyrus.reed@sierraclub.org) 512-740-4086  
Rebekah Hinojosa, [rebekah.hinojosa@sierraclub.org](mailto:rebekah.hinojosa@sierraclub.org) 956-975-6634

**Texas Tells Trump: No Offshore Drilling Off Our Coasts**

**Austin, Texas** -- In early January, Donald Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke released a draft offshore drilling five-year plan that proposed an unprecedented expansion of offshore drilling into nearly all of America's waters.

Today, local environmental advocates and community members gathered outside the administration's public hearing on the draft plan outside of an Embassy Suites Hotel in Austin -- [the only public hearing scheduled in Texas](#) -- to highlight the threats that offshore drilling poses to our coastline, climate, marine ecosystems, and the health and economic well-being of our communities.

"Put simply, offshore drilling is a bad idea in Alaska, it's a bad idea in Florida, and it's a bad idea in Texas," said Cyrus Reed, Conservation Director of the Sierra Club's Lone Star Chapter. "This five-year plan is even worse than the last one, offering no alternative but complete drilling in every section of the western Gulf. We're here today to send a message to the Trump administration: Don't sell off more of our coastline to the oil and gas industry."

The Rio Grande Valley, on the southern tip of Texas, is home to the last piece of un-industrialized coastline. Now it's on the chopping block for more offshore drilling and three fracked-gas export terminals. The vibrant border community is home to South Padre Island that attracts international families from across the state and Mexico, shrimping communities that thrive on fresh waters, and thousands of acres of wetlands that nestle threatened species.

"We don't have to imagine what a dystopian science fiction landscape looks like in Texas. It's already here, and we're mobilizing to put an end to this and demand our clean future," Valley Organizer Rebekah Hinojosa said. "We deserve better."

###