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February 25, 2013

The Honorable James Clyburn
U.S. House of Representatives
2135 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Clyburn:

I am writing today on behalf of Palmetto Agribusiness Council (PABC), to request your support in helping South Carolina take advantage of a potential economic engine, offshore drilling for natural gas and oil.

South Carolina, like other states located along various geographic areas on the Atlantic coast, has an opportunity to contribute to our nation's energy supply stability, as well as increase our state's revenues.

In order for South Carolina to take advantage of this potential, several things need to happen:

- First, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management must be encouraged to amend the five-year leasing program to include South Carolina's Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf as a leasing opportunity for exploration. This would at least put us in the queue for possible exploration, AND
- The SC General Assembly would need to set limits on the distance of rigs from the shoreline to insure they would not be visible from the shoreline or highest beachfront hotels.
- If the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management does not opt to amend the five-year leasing plan before 2017, the U.S. Senate and House would need to pass legislation that would open areas off the coast of Virginia, N.C., S.C. and Georgia for seismic testing by 2014.
- The seismic testing would be carried out by the private sector.

What this potential economic opportunity means to our state is about generating revenue and creating jobs. According to an economic impact study, conducted by Dr. Harry Miley, this could mean as much as \$2.3 billion from a combination of gas, oil and a natural gas production facility with up to 7,700 on going jobs.

All businesses and consumers would benefit from a greater supply of domestically produced fuel strengthening America's energy security and keeping energy costs under control. For South Carolina's agribusiness, we are developing strategies to increase the economic impact of our industry, which contributes \$34 billion to the state's economy and provides 200,000 jobs. If we are to sustain and expand our industry, we must find solutions to surging energy costs that have the potential of putting us out of business at the expense of consumers. Food harvesting, production and

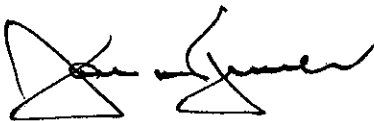
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transportation are heavily dependent on energy. Exploration of many fuel alternatives can serve to assist us in finding ways to reduce the cost of food to consumers and discourage the importing of foods that are not as tightly regulated and therefore not as safe as what we can produce here in our own back yards.

We encourage you to help put South Carolina in the queue for offshore drilling potential in the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf. We want our state to be poised to reap the benefits of our natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We appreciate your leadership and continued support of South Carolina's agribusiness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack W. Shuler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Jack W. Shuler
President

/sb

Cc: The Honorable Lindsey Graham, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Tim Scott, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Jeff Duncan, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Trey Gowdy, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Mick Mulvaney, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Joe Wilson, U.S. House of Representatives