

John Bel
EDWARDS
GOVERNOR-ELECT

December 8, 2015

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

As Governor-elect of the State of Louisiana, I wish to express my concerns with the proposed Well Control Rule announced by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement earlier this year. I strongly agree that ensuring the safety of offshore operations is paramount; however, I have grave concerns that this proposal may actually have an adverse effect - increasing risk and decreasing safety in the Gulf of Mexico.

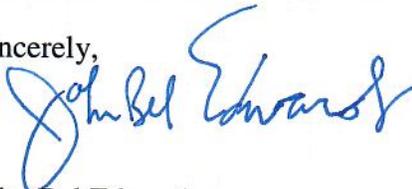
As you know, offshore wells vary drastically. A one-sized-fits-all model that does not take into consideration the various differences in well characteristics could actually increase risks in certain cases. This proposal would also hamper innovation, therefore delaying implementation of new technologies that could further improve safety.

Since the devastating 2010 Macondo tragedy, numerous new regulations and industry standards have been updated, improved upon, and implemented in the Gulf. Louisiana was hit hardest by this disaster, and we are committed to preventing a similar disaster from happening in the future. We have taken great strides to improve safety of offshore operations, but I fear this proposal, if adopted in its current form, could effectively renew the moratorium on offshore drilling. In the Louisiana House of Representatives, I fought to end the moratorium imposed by the administration. As the incoming governor, I am committed to preventing another moratorium in the future.

A de facto drilling moratorium in the Gulf could weaken an economy that continues to rebuild and devastate Louisiana families and communities that depend on a robust offshore energy industry. Furthermore, this will hinder collective coastal restoration and hurricane protection efforts that are funded through offshore oil and gas revenues.

I strongly urge you to reassess this proposal and engage in further dialogue with industry experts to consider potential changes. Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



John Bel Edwards