



CITY OF MOBILE

SAMUEL L. JONES
MAYOR

July 18, 2008

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Mr. Marshall Rose
Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Attention: Regulations and Standards Branch (RSB)
381 Elden Street, MS-4024
Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817

Re: Comments on the GOMESA regulations ("Allocation and Disbursement of Royalties, Rentals, and Bonuses – Oil and Gas, Offshore, 1010-AD46")

Dear Mr. Rose:

The City of Mobile has reviewed the proposed regulations for the distribution of GOMESA funds through the State of Alabama and Mobile County.

As a former Mobile County Commissioner and as Mayor of the City of Mobile, I am keenly interested in applying for GOMESA funding in support of the National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico. This public-private project is important to the environmental interests of the City of Mobile, Mobile County, the State of Alabama and the Gulf Coast region.

With the support of Senator Richard Shelby, we have developed a strong relationship between the Maritime Museum and NOAA. The City and the Maritime Museum are working diligently to plan exhibits and programs that raise awareness of environmental issues that are vital to the health of Mobile and the Gulf of Mexico. This relationship is expanding even further as the museum building will also house two new NOAA education programs focused, in part, on enhancing environmental awareness and involvement among our citizens.

We believe that the Maritime Museum's focus, combined with the NOAA environmental programs that will be housed there, provide compelling reasons for this capital project to be considered as a recipient of GOMESA support through the State of Alabama and Mobile County.

Mr. Marshall Rose
Page 2

Representatives from the City and the Maritime Museum have spoken with Senator Shelby, Congressman Jo Bonner, all three current Mobile County Commissioners and Barnett Lawley, Commissioner of the State of Alabama Department of Conservation. All have expressed support for the Maritime Museum project as a beneficiary of GOMESA support.

We look forward to working with the State of Alabama and Mobile County to formally submit a funding request for the Maritime Museum to the Minerals Management Service at the appropriate juncture. In the meantime, we welcome your response to these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel L. Jones", written over a large, faint, hand-drawn outline of a dome or arch.

Samuel L. Jones
Mayor

SLJ:es