



For Immediate Release
March 31, 2010

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Virginia Manufacturers Association Supports President Obama's Lease Sale 220
~Virginia Remains in 2011 Plan for Offshore Development~

Richmond, VA – The VMA joined today with the [Southeast Energy Alliance](#) (SEA), API and Government leaders praising the Obama administration for its decision to move forward with a comprehensive outer-continental shelf (OCS) leasing program (Lease Sale 220) that includes lease sales in both the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic regions.

Brett Vassey, VMA President & CEO, stated this afternoon, “The VMA and industrial businesses in the Commonwealth have worked long and hard for the ability to pursue offshore gas and oil development. We are all appreciative of President Obama’s decision to approve the Lease Sale 220 off the Virginia coast. His actions represent a tough decision as well as a clear recognition that domestic resource development is a bi-partisan issue that will create greater energy independence as well as an economic boom in leading states like Virginia.”

It has been reported that leases will include stipulations to address environmental effects that may occur because of exploration and development of the area’s oil and gas resources. These stipulations call for protection of biological resources, including protected marine mammals and birds and methods to minimize interference with subsistence activities.

Secretary Ken Salazar stated in the Administration’s press release today, “By responsibly expanding conventional energy development and exploration here at home, we can strengthen our energy security, create jobs, and help rebuild our economy,”

At 6:30 p.m. ET tonight, former US House Speaker Newt Gingrich will be responding to the President's announcement at a townhall event in St. Petersburg, FL. [Click here to watch it live](#) or visit <http://www.americansolutions.com/take-action/2010/03/watch-newt-live-on-wednesday-at-630-pm-et-1.php> directly.