

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 2, 2026

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
Ranking Member
House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member
Senate Armed Services Committee
425 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Wicker and Ranking Members Smith and Reed:

As Members of the California Congressional Delegation, we write to strongly urge you to remove Section 2835 from the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) as ongoing conference negotiations continue. Section 2835 was added to the House-passed NDAA through Hunt Amendment #7, which was adopted by a one-vote margin.

The NDAA has long served as a bipartisan vehicle to strengthen our national security and support our servicemembers. However, we are deeply concerned by the inclusion of Section 2835, which would grant extraordinary eminent domain authority to the federal government to circumvent established environmental protections for the benefit of a single private company. Given the sweeping implications of this provision, we believe this policy rider does not belong in the NDAA and, therefore, should be removed from the final conference agreement.

As aforementioned, Section 2835 would grant unprecedented eminent domain authority to the federal government for the benefit of a single private oil company based in Houston, Texas—Sable Offshore Corp. Sable has restarted oil production and processing operations on the Gaviota Coast, utilizing the corrosion-prone pipeline that was responsible for the Refugio oil spill in 2015. By doing so, it ignores the risks this poses to our constituents and our local economies that rely on healthy oceans.

California's coastal economy supports roughly 511,000 jobs and generates over \$51.3 billion in GDP from marine-economy activities — largely in tourism and recreation. Another oil spill from a corrosion-prone pipeline that has spilled before would jeopardize the economic security of everyday Americans that rely on our coastal economy for their livelihoods.

In addition, there is no evidence that this provision would meaningfully advance our nation's energy security. Recent spikes in gasoline prices driven by market uncertainty surrounding the war in Iran underscore that global oil markets—not a single offshore project—continue to dictate prices at the pump. The project does not address the underlying challenges facing California's energy market; yet it would expose our coastline to renewed environmental and economic risks associated with oil production and transportation.

Failing to remove Section 2835 from the final FY27 NDAA would override protections for property owners and communities while advancing the commercial interests of a single private entity under the guise of national

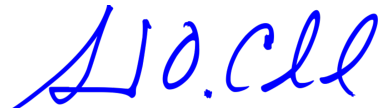
security. The NDAA should not be used to circumvent established permitting processes or create special authorities for individual projects that have failed to secure the approvals required under existing law. The federal government's power of eminent domain is among its most significant authorities and should be exercised only when there is a clear and compelling public purpose—not to resolve private infrastructure disputes or increase the profitability of a single company—at the expense of communities who have to live with the consequences of an oil spill.

The communities we represent know these risks firsthand. California's Central Coast continues to bear the scars of 1969 and 2015 catastrophic oil spills that devastated marine ecosystems, fisheries, tourism, Tribal cultural resources, and local businesses.

The NDAA has long been a bipartisan measure focused on providing for our national defense. Including project-specific language that confers extraordinary benefits on a private corporation undermines that tradition and erodes public confidence in the legislative process.

We respectfully urge you to remove Section 2835 from the final conference agreement and preserve the longstanding principle that eminent domain authority should not be expanded to benefit a single private development project. Striking this provision will reaffirm that the NDAA is intended to strengthen our national security—not to provide special legislative favors for a single private company.

Sincerely,



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, House Natural
Resources Committee



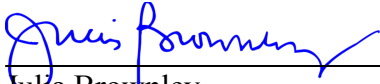
Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



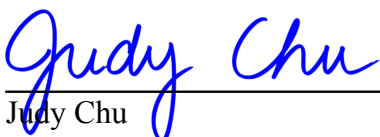
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



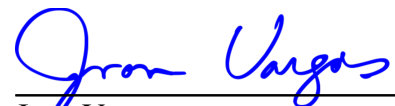
Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
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Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



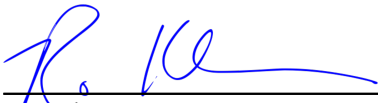
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



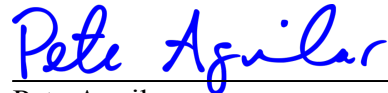
Ro Khanna
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Scott H. Peters
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Doris Matsui
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove
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George Whitesides
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Sara Jacobs
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