



## NH SENATE PRESS RELEASE

**September 10, 2019**

**Contact Name:** Sara Persechino

**Phone:** (603) 271-3479

**Email:** [Sara.Persechino@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:Sara.Persechino@leg.state.nh.us)

### **Senator Fuller Clark's Offshore Drilling Ban Bill Signed into Law**

**CONCORD**—Today, Senator Martha Fuller Clark's bill to prohibit offshore oil and natural gas drilling and exploration, SB 76, was signed into law.

**Senator Fuller Clark (D-Portsmouth), prime sponsor of SB 76, released the following statement after the signing:**

"Today's bill signing is a very significant victory for New Hampshire and for our environment. SB76 makes clear that despite attempts and interest by the Trump administration, New Hampshire, joining with our neighboring states of Maine and Massachusetts, will not permit oil and gas drilling off our shores nor will the state allow any development of on-shore support facilities related to such exploration. Many thanks to the Governor for signing this bipartisan legislation, ensuring that our valuable coastline will be protected from any negative impact on our environment, public health, and tourism from offshore drilling and associated development. With our coastline protected, now it is time for New Hampshire to move forward on sustainable energy developments, including offshore wind and solar."

###

### **Background:**

- In January 2018, the US Department of the Interior announced plans to allow offshore drilling up and down the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Governor Sununu is opposed to offshore drilling in New Hampshire and extracted [a concession](#) from the former Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, that offshore drilling would not happen in New Hampshire. However, that promise does not have the force of law.
- State legislatures on both coasts, including our neighbor states of Maine and Massachusetts, introduced coordinated [legislation in 2019](#) to ban off-shore drilling in their states' waters.