



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S SECOND SENATE DISTRICT

SENATOR MIKE MCGUIRE



For Immediate Release: August 27, 2015

Contact: Jason Liles, Jason.Liles@sen.ca.gov or (707) 570-7070

Senator McGuire vows to continue the fight for California Offshore Oil ban

SB 788 held in Assembly Appropriations Committee till January, 2016

Sacramento, CA -- Senator Mike McGuire's bill to forever protect California's coast from new offshore oil development in state waters – The California Coastal Protection Act (SB 788) – was unexpectedly held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee today.

“How many more oil spills do we have to see off the California coast before we stand up to the Big Oil lobby and take action?” asked McGuire. “Today’s vote is incredibly disappointing, but it’s a hurdle we will overcome in this fight to protect our coast. Big oil may have the money, but the people of California will win the fight to protect our environment and California’s \$40 billion coastal economy.”

McGuire cited a recent PPIC survey that showed public support for new offshore drilling in California has fallen to a new low of 38%.

Senate Bill 788 would have forever banned any new oil drilling in state waters off of the California Coast, and would not only have protected our environment, it would have helped California's coastal economy thrive. Coastal communities contribute \$40 billion annually to the state's economy along with 500,000 jobs working families depend on.

The bill was a part of a historic package of legislative proposals that would strengthen California's global leadership in tackling climate change. Comprised of 12 bills, the California Climate Leadership bill package includes new environmental and energy standards that will spur innovation. These bills are meant to incentivize economic growth, and further efforts to protect the state's environment and make renewable energy and clean technology accessible to all Californians, while driving the goal of reducing our state's petroleum use 50 percent by 2030.

More than 15,000 individuals had signed petitions endorsing SB 788, and the legislation was supported by a broad coalition of the state's leading environmental organizations and businesses including the Sierra Club, REI, Patagonia, Audubon of California, California League of Conservation Voters, the Center for Climate Protection, the Environmental Defense Fund, Natural Resources Defense Council, as well as fisherman's organizations, lodging and restaurant associations, tribal groups, and clean water advocates.

“We know Californians are smarter than Big Oil gives them credit for,” said McGuire. “And we will keep fighting every day to honor their wishes and protect our valuable coast.”

The bill was jointly authored by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson and co-authored by Senators Mark Leno, Ben Allen, Loni Hancock, Bill Monning, Lois Wolk and Assemblymembers Bill Dodd, Marc Levine, Mark Stone, Jim Wood and Das Williams.

Senator Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg) represents 40 percent of California's coastline from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border.

###