

**Hands Across the Sand Sample Letter to the Editor**

**Guidelines:**

* **Know the word limit for your paper, most are between 150-250.**
* **If possible, use your LTE to respond to a recently published article, or focus on a subject that’s topical in your community.**
* **Visit** [**http://www.beachapedia.org/Offshore\_Oil\_Drilling**](http://www.beachapedia.org/Offshore_Oil_Drilling) **to find regional and state-specific facts on offshore drilling.**
* **Provide an eye-catching title.**
* **Check your local paper’s website, most have an option for submitting letters to the editor online.**
* **Additional Resources:**
  + Visit www.oceaneconomics.org/Market/coastal/coastalEcon.asp to find regional and state-specific facts on economic contributions from tourism and recreation
  + Visit <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/economics/publications/feus/fisheries_economics_2010> to find state-specific facts on economic contributions from recreational and commercial fishing
  + Visit this [National Marine Fisheries Service](https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/Assets/economics/durable-expenditures/documents/TM165_Durable_Goods_2014.pdf) study to find the most recent national and statewide data on economic sales impacts of recreational fishing

Example:

*Tallahassee Democrat Sample LTE*

RE: Restore Act monumental to coastal economies (published 7/23)

This is an important reminder that seven years after the Deepwater Horizon disaster and BP’s promise to “make it right”, our Gulf Coast is still suffering. In fact, impacted counties, industries and residents are still struggling to quantify the impact of the spill. How do you compensate our environment for mass dolphin die off in the Gulf? How do you make up for a lost family vacation? The sad truth is that BP can never make it right.

Our fish aren’t healthy, there is oil on beaches, and our economy hasn’t fully recovered. Florida’s fisheries, $57 billion tourism industry, and irreplaceable environment cannot endure another spill. Offshore drilling is dirty, dangerous, and unsustainable. I hope my fellow Floridians will join Hands Across the Sand on May 20th to express their opposition to dirty fossil fuels and their support for clean, renewable energy. Visit [www.handsacrossthesand.org](http://www.handsacrossthesand.org) to sign up.

[NAME]

[CITY, STATE] [DATE]