Dear Editor,

Rather than protecting our coastal communities in a time of need, the Federal Administration is taking our weakened state as an opportunity to kick us while we're down. Last week the Trump Administration eased enforcement of environmental regulations covering polluting industries to help them cope with impacts from the coronavirus outbreak. They are also working to advance their dangerous proposal for offshore drilling. These issues should not go unchecked and are symptoms of a reckless industry.

Coastal community members have been hit hard by COVID-19, many are out of work and facing uncertainty. People are watching in fear as the entire world tries to survive COVID-19, and we are aware that our public health and way of life will be devastated for a long time. Pushing forward on plans to drill off Georgia's coast is like meeting devastation with devastation.

Over 1.3 billion dollars in the state GDP and over 23,000 jobs come from tourism, outdoor recreation, and fisheries industries. These sectors also happen to employ many people who have been hardest hit by our current public health crisis. Once we come out of this pandemic, we will need time to reset, rebuild and reconnect. Coastal communities will be eager to get back to their livelihoods, and our favorite places to swim and fish.

The threats of offshore drilling are too high a risk, and respectfully now is not the time to be rolling back regulations that preserve the environment and protect our quality of life on the Georgia coast.

Rachael Thompson,  
Executive Director  
Glynn Environmental Coalition