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August 20, 2021

National Landmarks Preservation Program
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Sir/Madam,

The American Oil & Gas Historical Society (AOGHS) strongly encourages landmark designation for *Mr. Charlie*, the world's first practical mobile offshore drilling unit. Launched on June 14, 1954, this technology milestone drilled its last well in 1986.

Mr. Charlie today educates students and visitors as the International Petroleum Museum and Exposition (IPME) on the banks of the Atchafalaya River in Morgan City, Louisiana. The design and operation of *Mr. Charlie* revolutionized the offshore petroleum exploration and production industry and led to technologies currently being used worldwide.

As IPME notes, "This historic and renowned structure now continues in a new role, teaching others about an industry that changed the world." *Mr. Charlie* is significant because of its "independent island," transportable, column-stabilized design. The concept originated with Navy World War II veteran Alden "Doc" LaBorde, who believed a self-sufficient oil rig could be placed on a barge for deeper offshore drilling.

LaBorde's design of *Mr. Charlie* -- the world's first mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU) -- now serves is a "glimpse into the past" of the modern energy industry. The American Society of Mechanical Engineers in 2012 recognized significance of the offshore platform, designating it an ASME Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark.

My historical society urges the designation of *Mr. Charlie* because of its public education value and special position as the first of its kind in rapidly evolving offshore technologies (SpaceX is modifying a MODU). Please designate *Mr. Charlie* an individual landmark so that it may be preserved and protected in perpetuity.

Yours truly,

Bruce Wells
Executive Director