

A RESOLUTION

TO EXPRESS THE CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS, SC'S OPPOSITION TO SEISMIC TESTING AND OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is currently in the process of trying to open the mid-Atlantic Ocean to exploration and development of offshore oil and gas including risky methods, such as seismic blasting; and,

WHEREAS, seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest human-made sounds in the ocean. These dynamite-like blasts can occur as frequently as every ten seconds, for days to weeks at a time and are loud enough to harm marine and aquatic life; and,

WHEREAS, the full impacts of seismic testing and offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean are not yet fully understood by scientists, the oil and gas industry, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management or the Federal Government, and lower-impact alternative technologies may be available for exploration in the near future; and,

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of spill; and,

WHEREAS, eventual offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which may harm the character of our coast, and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling activities pose threats for coastal wetland areas of the Isle of Palms, which are of intrinsic ecological value for numerous migratory bird species, serve as essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Isle of Palms is a South Carolina municipality where a major economic force is tourism related to the appreciation of our natural coastal and historical environment, which are also the primary factors contributing to the high quality of life the City's residents enjoy, enabling business recruitment and attracting new residents; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Isle of Palms endeavors to be a good steward of its coastal environment and its resources; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Isle of Palms believes that more research should be done to fully understand and to better address the impacts of seismic testing and the options for mitigating those impacts before exploration begins, including incorporation of the National Marine Fisheries Service's soon-to-be-released acoustic guidance document; and,

WHEREAS, the exploration and development of oil and natural gas off the mid-Atlantic coast will not effectively or fully address the long-term energy needs of our country; and,

WHEREAS, the City feels it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy through solar, wind, and biomass energy production projects that pose less risk to our coastal environment and economic health before using uncertain methods of seismic blasting for offshore oil and gas exploration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS, IN COUNCIL, ASSEMBLED, THAT THE CITY IS OPPOSED TO SEISMIC TESTING AND OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT OFF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COAST.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THE 17TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2015.



Richard F. Cronin, Mayor

