

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2019-24**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE, FLORIDA, TO EXPRESS THE TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE'S OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING**

**WHEREAS**, the United States government has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas development and exploration, including risky methods such as seismic airgun blasting; and,

**WHEREAS**, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean, every 10-12 seconds for days, weeks, or months on end; and,

**WHEREAS**, seismic airgun noise has been shown to harm and injure dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and,

**WHEREAS**, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of oil spills and chronic leakage; and,

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

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Florida's Coasts, which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, provide essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Ocean Ridge recognizes that the tourism and fishing industries, which depend on a healthy and vibrant coastal environment, both serve as major economic drivers benefiting the current and future residents, property owners, and visitors to Florida; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Ocean Ridge endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, exploration and development of oil and gas resources off the coast of Florida will not effectively address the long-term energy needs of our country; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Ocean Ridge recommends that it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy such as solar and wind, that pose less risk to the coastal environment and economic health before using uncertain methods of seismic airgun blasting for offshore oil and gas deposits.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE, FLORIDA, THAT:** Offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk; therefore the Council expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast.

Commissioner Besler offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hurlburt and duly passed by the Commission.

The Mayor thereupon declared this Resolution approved and adopted effective December 2, 2019.

TOWN OF OCEAN RIDGE, FLORIDA

By:

  
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Steve Coz, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Karla Armstrong, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

  
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R. Brian Shutt, Town Attorney