

RESOLUTION
January 17, 2018

WHEREAS, the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders has consistently and strongly opposed any plans to use the Atlantic Ocean for the disposal of problem materials and the disruptive use of the coast and ocean floor for activities including the drilling for oil and natural gas and the mining of sand because of the disruptive impact of such activities on the marine environment and coastal tourism; and

WHEREAS, in January 2018 the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management released the "2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program"; and

WHEREAS, the proposed program identifies region planning areas including the North Atlantic Region, of which the County of Ocean is a part of; and

WHEREAS, as recently as June 21, 2017, the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders adopted a Resolution strongly supporting the introduced House and Senate Bill "Atlantic Seismic Airgun Protection Act" which would place a moratorium on oil-gas-, and methane hydrate-related seismic activities on the Atlantic Seaboard; and

WHEREAS, Ocean County has 44 miles of coastline and protecting this vital resource is very important to both the environment and the economy; and

WHEREAS, the County of Ocean relies heavily on tourism which generates \$4.68 billion into the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the conducting of offshore drilling poses a significant threat to the economy and the sensitive marine environment of Ocean County and the region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY as follows:

1. It repeats its strong opposition to the exploration, development or production of oil or natural gas off the North Atlantic Coast.
2. Copies of this Resolution shall be made available to the US Department of the Interior, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Governor Phil D. Murphy, the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, New Jersey Congressional Delegation, the Clerk of the Board of the Counties of Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Monmouth, and the Ocean County Municipal Clerks.