

County of Atlantic, New Jersey



Resolution No.: 37

Approved as to Form and Legality

Roger C. Steedle, Legislative Counsel

Submitted By:

Maureen Kern
Freeholder Sponsor

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AND ENDORSING A BIPARTISAN BILL (H.R. 2158),
“THE ATLANTIC SEISMIC AIRGUN PROTECTION ACT,” INTRODUCED IN
CONGRESS BY CONGRESSMAN FRANK LoBIONDO (R-NJ-02) AND
CONGRESSMAN DON BEYER (D-VA-08)**

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s (and Atlantic County’s) marine and coastal resources are a valuable commodity and are not only key to the quality of life for New Jersey’s coastal residents, but also provides the vital economic driving force for tourism for our coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, offshore petroleum extraction was blocked until 2022 following a decision by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), but that action is currently under review by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, permits for seismic airgun blasting, which is used to locate petroleum deposits in the ocean floor, may be allowed again as part of any review changes; and

WHEREAS, seismic airgun blasting precedes actual oil offshore drilling as part of the overall exploration leading to offshore drilling; and

I, Sonya G. Harris, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct and true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a meeting duly held

on the 30th day of January 2018

Signed

Clerk of the Board

RECORD OF VOTE															
FREEHOLDER	MOVED	SECOND	YES	NO	ABS	REC	AB	FREEHOLDER	MOVED	SECOND	YES	NO	ABS	REC	AB
BENNETT			✓					GATTO	✓		✓				
BERTINO			✓					KERN		✓	✓				
COURSEY			✓					RISLEY			✓				
DASE			✓					FORMICA, Chairman			✓				
FITZPATRICK			✓												
ABS - Abstain				REC - Recuse				AB - Absent							



WHEREAS, seismic airgun pulses are loud, repetitive, explosive sounds used to identify oil and gas reserves deep in the ocean floor, and can cause hearing damage, stress and other harm to numerous aquatic species, including the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ-02) and Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA-08) previously introduced bipartisan legislation to halt permits for seismic airgun blasting on the Atlantic seaboard, and US. Senator Cory A. Booker (D-NJ) has introduced an identical bill, S-1263, in the U.S. Senate; and

WHEREAS, the bipartisan bill H.R. 2158 seeks to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit oil, gas, and methane hydrate-related seismic activities in the North Atlantic and other areas, and is known as the "Atlantic Seismic Airgun Protection Act;" and

WHEREAS, near-unanimous opposition to seismic testing exists among local concerned residents, commercial and recreational fishermen, and environmentalists along the Jersey Shore;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Atlantic supports and endorses Congressmen LoBiondo/Beyer's "Atlantic Seismic Airgun Protection Act" bill and urges its passage;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to New Jersey's U.S. Senators and Congressmen/women, the New Jersey Legislature, the Governor of New Jersey, the legislative teams of Atlantic County, and the U.S. Secretary of the Department of the Interior.