

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO SEISMIC TESTING AND OIL & GAS EXPLORATION OFF NORTH CAROLINA SHORES

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is currently in the process of trying to open the Atlantic Coast to exploration and development of offshore oil and gas which will include the utilization of methods such as seismic blasting; and

WHEREAS, the full impact of seismic blasting in the Atlantic Ocean and its effect on marine mammals, highly migrator fish, and other marine life is not yet fully understood by scientists, the oil and gas industry, BOEM, or the Federal Government, and lower impact technologies may be available; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Arapahoe acknowledge the importance of their role as environmental stewards; and

WHEREAS, the Neuse River and the creeks near the Town of Arapahoe are havens for a wide array of wildlife, including nearly 200 species of birds, dolphins, alligators, deer, bear, and an amazing variety of fish and hatcheries for marine life such as shrimp; and

WHEREAS, many of the Town of Arapahoe's residents rely on the quality of the environment in the surrounding areas for their livelihood in fishing, construction, youth camps, and other water-related jobs; and

WHEREAS, in January 2015 the BOEM 2017-2022 Program proposed opening a large swath of the Atlantic to offshore drilling, spanning from Virginia to Georgia; and

WHEREAS, in March 2016 the Atlantic Ocean was removed from consideration for offshore seismic blasting after coastal towns, fisheries management councils, legislators, scientists and businesses argued against it; and

WHEREAS, in April 2017 seismic blasting for exploration and drilling for oil was again proposed for the Atlantic Coast in the proposed BOEM Program for 2019-2024, which if approved, will supersede the 2017-2022 Program; and

WHEREAS, it is our position that oil and gas exploration and drilling will negatively impact our jobs and damage the sensitive ecology of our region; and

WHEREAS, there is concern among businesses and property owners with experience and devotion to conserving marine life that the noise required for seismic exploration may startle, impair, and/or drive away sea life from offshore waters essential to the quality of our rivers and creeks; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent study by a North Carolina State University Professor, Dr. Michael Walden, the potential annual average on-shore costs from possible environmental damage could reduce property values in affected counties by between \$636 million and \$4.7 billion; and

WHEREAS, removing North Carolina from consideration of oil/gas activities could be of great value in sustaining property values not just to the benefit the residents of the Town of Arapahoe, but also to support the viability of many of Pamlico County's services; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina's water systems are vital recreational, economic, and ecological treasures, generating an estimated \$3 billion in revenue each year and directly supporting approximately 40m000 jobs in coastal area communities; and

WHEREAS, our sensitive coast provides a haven for wildlife and long-term toxic effects of oil/gas drilling activities can impair reproductive success for marine mammals, sea birds, fish, shellfish, and other critical sea life, which has a ripple effect on our coastal economy and ecology.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Arapahoe is opposed to the current BOEM Proposal for seismic testing off the coast of North Carolina for the purpose of oil and gas exploration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Arapahoe, stands in solidarity with other North Carolina coastal communities and with other communities which may be affected by seismic testing and oil and gas exploration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Arapahoe calls upon Governor Roy Cooper, Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Michael Regan, and the North Carolina General Assembly to protect North Carolina's beautiful shores and North Carolina's coastal economy by opposing seismic testing for oil and gas exploration.

Be it ordained by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Arapahoe that this Resolution in Opposition to Seismic Testing and Oil and Gas Exploration Off North Carolina Shores be approved.

This, the 1st day of March, 2018.



Brandi Robertson, Mayor Pro Tempore
Town of Arapahoe