



TOWN OF ST. JAMES

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RESOLUTION OF CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO SEISMIC SURVEYING, AND STATED OPPOSITION TO OIL AND GAS OFFSHORE EXPLORATION AND DRILLING OFF THE COAST OF NORTH CAROLINA

RESOLUTION 2018-02

WHEREAS, the Town of St. James is committed to being a sound steward of the unique coastal environment, recognizing the value of the maritime forest, estuaries, marshes and pristine waterfronts in Southport and other Brunswick County coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina waters provide some of the finest fish and shellfish products in the world and seismic oil and gas exploration along the US Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic coasts is viewed by the marine science community to pose an unacceptable risk of serious harm to marine life at the species and population levels. Particularly at risk is the North Atlantic right whale, one of the most endangered whales on Earth. Scientists warn the full extent of impact by proposed seismic airgun activities will not be understood until long after the harm occurs; and

WHEREAS, the Town Councilors of the Town of St. James have evaluated the validity of job and revenue claims by the offshore drilling industry against the 2016 statistics of \$543 million in tourism revenue for Brunswick County and the 41,000 plus tourists that visited the Southport Visitor Center, proving that tourism has and continues to be the backbone of the Brunswick County economies; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Town Councilors of the Town of St. James adopted Resolution 2014-02 in opposition to seismic surveying and opposed the proposal by the U.S. Department of the Interior to allow exploration and drilling of oil/gas resources in the Mid and South Atlantic Ocean regions, such opposition resulted in the Atlantic Ocean Outer Continental Shelf of the United States being withdrawn from federal energy leasing program; and


WHEREAS, Presidential Executive Order 13795, "Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy", issued in April 2017 intends to reverse limits on offshore seismic exploration and drilling in the Atlantic Ocean and reduce environmental protection regulations related to offshore drilling, it is critical the Town Councilors of the Town of St. James express continued opposition to any proposals that would permit seismic surveying and offshore drilling for oil/gas resources off the coast of North Carolina.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THE TOWN COUNCIL of St. James stands in solidarity with North Carolina coastal communities and other communities who may be affected by the offshore exploration and drilling and may suffer long-term social, economic and environmental impacts from offshore exploration and production of petroleum resources on the continental shelf off the coast of North Carolina.

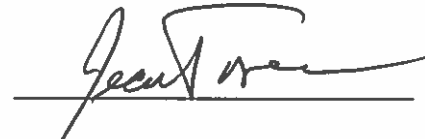
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Town Councilors of the Town of St. James call upon the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to exempt the coastal zone and Outer Continental Shelf of North Carolina from seismic oil/gas exploration and offshore drilling.

Adopted by the St. James Town Council, March 6, 2018

ATTEST:



Gary Brown, Town Clerk



Jean Toner, Mayor