

A RESOLUTION

TO EXPRESS THE CITY OF GREENVILLE'S OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING

WHEREAS, in South Carolina hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of the state's gross domestic product depend on clean, oil-free water and beaches and abundant fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of South Carolina's ocean wealth stems from our tourism and recreation sector which benefits from a healthy ocean and coast; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration places coastal communities at economic and ecological risk from oil spills and the pollution brought by routine drilling operations and onshore industrialization, threatening the livelihoods of commercial and recreational fisherman and small businesses that rely on a clean and healthy ocean and beaches; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of South Carolina's coastline and could exacerbate wetlands loss and storm surge and sea level rise impacts; and

WHEREAS, the harmful impacts from offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration anywhere along the Atlantic coastline could extend far beyond immediately surrounding areas and severely impact communities that rely on the robust economy of the marine industry; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling and exploration perpetuates our ties to dirty carbon pollution and contributes to climate change and the resulting sea level rise and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, the current Federal Administration has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean to offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, which includes the use of seismic airguns which fire intense blasts of compressed air that rank just behind military explosives as the loudest source of noise in the ocean, every 10-12 seconds, 24 hours a day, for months on end; and

WHEREAS, seismic airgun blasting to explore oil and gas deposits has been proven to disrupt and displace marine life, such as whales which rely on sound to find food and mate, and can impair the health of many fish and shellfish species, including those of commercial importance like squid, lobster, and scallops; and

WHEREAS, fishing, tourism and recreation support roughly 79,000 jobs and generate about \$4.4 billion in GDP in South Carolina, and chronic leaks and spills, the threat of a catastrophic spill, and the impacts of onshore infrastructure necessary to support offshore drilling, all add up to an industry that is wholly incompatible with our existing state economy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Greenville (the "City") is a South Carolina municipality located in close proximity to the inland port, a major economic driver which connects Upstate business and industry to more than 95 million consumers through the Port of Charleston; and

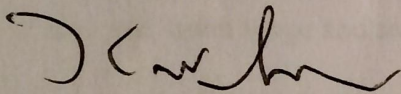
WHEREAS, the City recognizes that a strong tourism culture is also dependent upon a well-balanced, mountains-to-sea connection that relies upon the healthy coastal environment; and

WHEREAS, the City further recognizes that our community, businesses, and industries depend upon a healthy coastal environment for both quality of life and the economic benefits derived from robust tourism activity; and

WHEREAS, Greenville is not a coastal community, but stands in solidarity with our sister coastal communities and partners in protecting our vulnerable coastal environment;

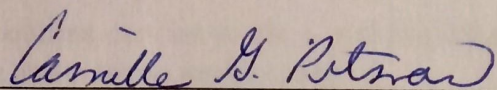
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, City Council finds that offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration unnecessarily risks our economic and ecological health and, therefore, City Council opposes any plan or legislation which encourages oil and gas development or exploration offshore that would negatively impact the citizens of South Carolina. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

RESOLVED THIS 9 DAY OF APRIL, 2018.



MAYOR

Attest:



CITY CLERK