



RESOLUTION

REGARDING LEASING OF CERTAIN OFFSHORE DRILLING RIGHTS NEAR ACCOMACK COUNTY

WHEREAS, the County of Accomack has enjoyed the economic benefits of the Wallops Flight Facility, located at Wallops Island, Virginia, for many years; and

WHEREAS, the installation is noteworthy for its historical value to the Nation, as well as its promise for future benefits to the Nation, the Region and the County, containing as it does, research, aeronautical, marine, and Naval Defense components, as well as space launch facilities; and

WHEREAS, these components are not only existing, but thriving and growing, and constitute an immense value to the National, Regional and local economy, as well as the security of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, the proposal to lease drilling rights off of Accomack's coastline has been opposed by the leadership of NASA and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS), as well as the Navy, for well-founded and documented threats to their operational environment, which drilling would threaten to degrade those environments and cause hardship on those who seek to promote the greater interests of the Nation through the unfettered and free access to our own marine and aerospace resources; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Accomack County has been called upon to involve itself in the matter of a proposal to lease these rights to others; and

WHEREAS, the Board has not indicated any opposition to drilling for any reason other than its probable adverse impact on the operations of the Navy, NASA and MARS, and the likely damage that impact would cause to the local and regional economy, it not being opposed to drilling for other reasons:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by this Board of Supervisors for Accomack County, that it does now go officially on record as being opposed to the lease of drilling rights offshore as currently proposed and as reflected in the attached NASA document, where the drilling would occur in the very midst of the flight range for launches and having similar impacts on the Navy's use of our near coastline for preparation for our Nation's defense.

Done this 15th day of April, 2009.

Steven B. Miner, Clerk of the Board