

The Albemarle Garden Club
P. O. Box 5746 Charlottesville VA 22905

May 18, 2016

**The Albemarle Garden Club's Resolution Opposing Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling and Seismic
Testing for Oil and Gas in the Atlantic**

The board members of the Albemarle Garden Club resolved on March 15, 2016 to oppose Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling in the Atlantic. The Albemarle Garden Club membership has now resolved to oppose Seismic Testing for Oil and Gas in the Atlantic as well.

The Albemarle Garden Club has worked for over 100 years to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action. We are known for decades of work and funding in support of environmental education and research, nature camps, tree planting and garden conservation, and many other conservation efforts across Albemarle County.

The experience of Gulf States with oil and gas drilling operations and the Deepwater Horizon disaster lead us to voice our concerns about drilling in the Atlantic. The Virginia Beach Restaurant Association, the Virginia Beach Hotel Association, the Resort Advisory Commission, Lynnhaven River NOW and dozens of coastal communities along the East Coast have all stated opposition to proposed drilling in the Atlantic because of the risk for catastrophic oil spills and certainty of persistent release of toxic chemicals and routine oil spills of normal drilling operations. Construction of the infrastructure required to support drilling operations is also fraught with pollution both on-shore and in the water.

Tourism and a thriving fishing industry remain at the heart of our Commonwealth's coastal economy. The protection of coastal waters and land is critical to our environment and our quality of life. Supporting a clean environment and promoting the economy go hand in hand. The Albemarle Garden Club is resolved to stand with and support our sister clubs in coastal Virginia in opposing seismic testing for oil and gas in the Atlantic and protecting coastal waters and land.

Gas and oil drilling risk jobs in tourism, commercial fishing and shellfish industries, and the health of wildlife, in addition to human health and quality of life. Seismic Testing for Oil and Gas poses risks of harm and death to ocean mammals, fish and other sea life. These significant harms are not worth the risk.

Carol Carter, President

Karen Blair, Conservation Chair

Member, Garden Club of Virginia

Member, Garden Club of America