



RESOLUTION BY THE BELVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE OIL & GAS EXPLORATION OFF THE NORTH CAROLINA COAST

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of the Interior has proposed the inclusion of the North Carolina coast in their proposal for exploration and development of offshore oil and gas off of the Atlantic Coast; and

WHEREAS, seismic air guns-fire intense blasts of compressed air are considered to be one of the loudest man made sounds in the ocean; and

WHEREAS, these seismic blasts can occur as frequently as every ten seconds, for days to weeks at a time and are loud enough to harm marine and aquatic life; and

WHEREAS, the full impacts of seismic blasting and offshore drilling in the Atlantic are not yet fully understood by scientists, the oil and gas industry, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, of the Federal Government, and lower-impact alternative technologies may be available for exploration in the future; and

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and the transportation of offshore oil and gas resources poses significant economic and environmental risks; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling activities pose specific threats for the offshore marine ecosystems as well as the coastal and river wetlands areas of Brunswick County, which are of intrinsic ecological value for numerous migratory bird species, serve as essential nursery habitats for our recreational and commercially important fisheries and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, the appreciation of our natural coastal and historical habitat, as well as commercial and recreational fishing are critical economic and quality of life drivers for Brunswick County; and

WHEREAS, tourism is the economic backbone of Brunswick County and offshore drilling activities and the potential for oil spills on our coastline poses a significant threat to our thriving tourism and the Brunswick County tax base; and

WHEREAS, one oil spill could potentially devastate Brunswick County the economic engine and tax base; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Belville endeavors to be a good steward of our coastal environment and its resources; and

WHEREAS, it has been requested by area residents and local advocacy organizations that and Brunswick County leadership lend its voice of opposition to this critical issue facing our coast.

WHEREAS, The Town of Belville stands with other coastal North Carolina municipalities in their pursuit of shoreline protection.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, The Town of Belville, North Carolina, is opposed to offshore oil and gas development and drilling and related seismic blasting activities off of the North Carolina coast.

Signed by: Noreen Slattery
Noreen Slattery, Mayor Pro Tem

Attest: Athina D. Williams
Athina D. Williams, Town Clerk

Date: 3-7-16

