

RESOLUTION NO. 17-91

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, OPPOSING OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING, EXPLORATION, AND DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIR GUN BLASTING, IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN OFF THE EAST COAST OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, URGING THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NOT TO PURSUE OR ALLOW OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING, EXPLORATION, OR DEVELOPMENT IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN OFF THE EAST COAST OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, RECOMMENDING NON-POLLUTING SOURCES OF RENEWABLE ENERGY, SUCH AS SOLAR AND WIND, AND PROVIDING FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THIS RESOLUTION AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the United States federal government has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean to offshore oil and gas development and exploration, including risky methods such as seismic air gun blasting; and

WHEREAS, seismic air guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean, every ten to twelve seconds for days, weeks, or months on end; and

WHEREAS, seismic air gun noise has been shown to harm and injure dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of oil spills and chronic leakage; and

WHEREAS, eventual offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of Florida's East Coast; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Florida's East Coast, which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, provide essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale recognizes that the tourism and fishing industries, which depend on a healthy and vibrant coastal environment, both serve as major economic drivers benefiting the current and future residents, property owners, and visitors to Florida; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and

WHEREAS, exploration and development of oil and gas resources off the east coast of Florida will not effectively address the long-term energy needs of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic air gun blasting in the Atlantic Ocean in close proximity to Florida's shoreline would put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources, and local economies at risk;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. The City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, opposes offshore oil and gas drilling, exploration, and development, including seismic air gun blasting, in the Atlantic Ocean off the East Coast of the State of Florida.

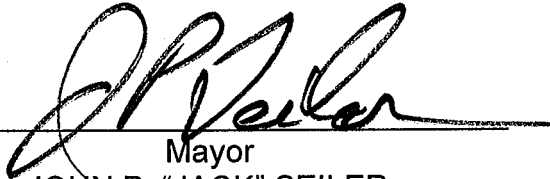
SECTION 2. The City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, urges the United States federal government not to pursue or allow offshore oil and gas drilling, exploration, or development in the Atlantic Ocean off the East Coast of the State of Florida.

SECTION 3. The City Commission of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, recommends non-polluting sources of renewable energy, such as solar and wind, that pose less risk to the coastal environment and economic health before using uncertain methods of seismic air gun blasting in the pursuit of offshore oil and gas deposits.

SECTION 4. The City Clerk is directed to send a certified copy of this Resolution to the Broward League of Cities, the Florida League of Cities, the Broward County Legislative Delegation, the United States Congressional Delegation from the State of Florida, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, the Palm Beach County League of Cities, the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, and any other interested parties.

SECTION 5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED this the 19th day of April, 2017.

  
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Mayor  
JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER

ATTEST:



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City Clerk  
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI