

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of North Myrtle Beach strives to protect and preserve its nine miles of beautiful beaches, and its pristine marshes, inlets and other natural offerings for the enjoyment of current and future generations of residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the latest figures provided by the State of South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism show that domestic travelers spent \$12.2 billion in tourism travel in South Carolina in 2104, with a total economic impact on the state of about \$20 billion, and sustained 116,700 jobs statewide; and

WHEREAS, Horry County received \$3.8 billion in domestic travel expenditures to lead South Carolina's 46 counties, accounting for 31.3% of the state total. These expenditures supported \$682.6 million in payroll income and 39,000 jobs within the county. Tourism generated \$370 million in state and local tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Myrtle Beach works very hard to maintain and expand its positive standing as a premier family-friendly tourism and residency destination in Horry County and along the South Carolina coast; and

WHEREAS, City Council must assess very carefully any and all proposed offshore and onshore activities that may hold the potential to threaten the livelihoods and investments of our citizens, and the continued good health of our unique natural environment; and

WHEREAS, just one spill could forever sully the North Myrtle Beach environment and that of all of the Grand Strand, and threaten the long-term viability of our economy and environment; and

WHEREAS, the North Myrtle Beach City Council believes that the slight and speculative benefit of oil and gas exploration and drilling off our coast which would likely accrue to the global energy market is not worth the risk of even a single incident that would cripple our local and statewide economy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of North Myrtle Beach opposes offshore drilling and exploration for oil and gas along the coast of South Carolina:**

SIGNED, SEALED and DATED, this 17 day of August, 2015.

  
Marilyn Hatley, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
City Clerk