

**RESOLUTION
OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSIONERS
OF THE CITY OF REHOBOTH BEACH
OPPOSING SEISMIC TESTING AND OFFSHORE DRILLING.**

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the City of Rehoboth Beach to preserve and protect the natural beauty of our beach and the waters in, and adjacent to it, for the enjoyment of its current and future generations of citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, The United States Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is considering permits allowing for the exploration and development of offshore oil and gas in the mid- and south-Atlantic Ocean which include using seismic testing for geological and geophysical surveys; and

WHEREAS, the economy of the City of Rehoboth Beach and its neighboring coastal towns is heavily dependent on tourism, recreational fishing and the industries that support it; and

WHEREAS, the nature of seismic blasting in the Atlantic Ocean specifically for oil and natural gas exploration is potentially devastating to our coastal area's fish and marine life since the volume, intensity and duration of the sounds emitted during such testing have been shown to harm fish and drive them from their long-established feeding and breeding habitats, and to result in the strandings and deaths of mammals such as dolphins and whales who depend on sound for navigation and food; and

WHEREAS, these activities provide the groundwork for actual oil and natural gas exploration, including drilling; and exploratory and commercial offshore oil drilling and activities such as extracting and transporting oil and gas pose a realistic risk of a spill; and,

WHEREAS, such spills have resulted in severe harm to coastal habitat and the tourism and fishing-based economies of other coastal towns where such offshore oil and gas development has been permitted; and

WHEREAS, the continued viability and health of the Mid-Atlantic ocean and coastal region, including the City of Rehoboth Beach, require that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) continue its policy in the current 2012-2017 five-Year Program *not* to allow lease sales in the Atlantic Ocean for oil and gas exploration and development, and

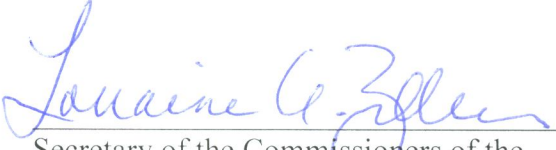
WHEREAS, neither our residents, workers, businesses of, nor the hundreds of thousands of visitors to the City of Rehoboth Beach should have to face the threat of an oil spill with its negative impact on the natural environment, local economy, and property values.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commissioners of the City of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, in session met, this 15th day of January, 2016, that by majority vote, the Commissioners of the City of Rehoboth Beach oppose the Five-Year Program allowing oil and natural gas exploration activities, including seismic testing along the mid and south Atlantic regions generally, and off the Delaware coast specifically.

This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption by the Mayor and Commissioners of the City of Rehoboth Beach.

Adopted by a majority of
the Commissioners of the
City of Rehoboth Beach

JANUARY 15, 2016


Secretary of the Commissioners of the
City of Rehoboth Beach