

CITY OF SANIBEL

RESOLUTION 16-094

A RESOLUTION OF THE SANIBEL CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING SEISMIC BLASTING AND OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the wise stewardship of our natural resources involves the protection of Florida's water resources and natural environment for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is currently in the process of trying to open the Mid and South Atlantic Ocean to exploration and development of offshore oil and gas including ecologically harmful methods, such as seismic blasting; and

WHEREAS, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean at 200-230 decibels, every 10 seconds, 24 hours a day for weeks to months on end that can injure and kill dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and

WHEREAS, the full impact of seismic blasting is not yet fully understood by scientists, the oil and gas industry, BOEM, or the Federal Government; and

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

WHEREAS, the City of Sanibel recognizes that tourism and fishing related to 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 Sanibel endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and

WHEREAS, the Sanibel City Council is elected to represent the best interests of Sanibel residents; and

WHEREAS, the Sanibel City Council finds that opposing seismic blasting is in the best interest of Sanibel and its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Sanibel,


Florida:

SECTION 1. Opposing Seismic Airgun Testing and Offshore Drilling. Seismic airgun testing for oil and gas exploration and drilling for oil and natural gas will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk. Therefore, due to the potential harmful impacts on the residents, environment, and natural resources of Sanibel, the Sanibel City Council expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the Federal Government to stop this process and ensure the vitality of vulnerable local economies on Florida's coast.


SECTION 2. Transmittal. The City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Abigail Ross Hopper, Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; and Gary D. Goeke, Chief of the Environmental Assessment Section of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Gulf of Mexico OCS Region.

SECTION 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

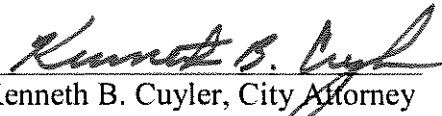
DULY PASSED AND ENACTED by the Council of the City of Sanibel, Florida, this 6th day of December, 2016.



Kevin Ruane, Mayor

AUTHENTICATION:


Pamela Smith, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  11/28/16
Kenneth B. Cuyler, City Attorney Date

Vote of Council Members:

Ruane	<u>yea</u>
Denham	<u>yea</u>
Goss	<u>yea</u>
Harrity	<u>yea</u>
Jennings	<u>yea</u>

Date filed with City Clerk: December 6, 2016