

**RESOLUTION IN CONTINUED OPPOSITION OF SEISMIC SURVEYING AND STATED
OPPOSITION TO OIL AND GAS OFFSHORE EXPLORATION AND DRILLING ON THE
CONTINENTAL SHELF OFF THE COAST OF NORTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS, the City of Southport is committed to being a sound steward of the unique coastal environment, including the rare maritime forest, estuaries, marshes, and pristine beaches on and around our regional coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the Aldermen of the City of Southport recognize that Southport's economic survival solely depends on the sustainability of the existing environment; and

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2015, a letter was sent to President Obama signed by 75 leading marine scientists expressing their concern over the significant threat to marine life posed by the introduction of seismic oil and gas exploration along the U.S. Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic coasts. The letter further states, "Opening the U.S. East Coast to seismic airgun exploration poses an unacceptable risk of serious harm to marine life at the species and population levels, the full extent of which will not be understood until long after the harm occurs." The scientists' letter serves as additional confirmation of the City of Southport's previous resolution in opposition of the use of seismic airguns.

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

WHEREAS, offshore drilling requires substantial onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines and/or refineries, which will further risk the health and safety of the environment, character and natural beauty of North Carolina's coast; and

WHEREAS, it is known that the 20 counties that comprise North Carolina's coastal region generate more commercial and personal income, public revenues, and employment opportunities than the petroleum and natural gas industry is estimated to generate for the State, specifically,

1. In 2014, a record \$21.3 billion in domestic visitor/tourism spending was realized in North Carolina; and
2. In 2014, North Carolina was the sixth most visited state in the nation. Out of the 100 counties in the State of North Carolina, in terms of travel expenditures, three of the top 10 counties were coastal counties; and
3. In 2014, direct tourism employment in North Carolina is approximately 204,800 persons, with direct tourism payroll of \$4.9 billion; and
4. Visitors to North Carolina generated more than \$3.2 billion in federal, state and local taxes in 2014; and
5. The NC Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDENR) reported 2014 commercial fish landings in North Carolina to be worth \$93,843,254; and
6. Because of North Carolina's tourism industry, each North Carolina household in 2014 saved \$455 in state and local taxes as a direct result of visitor spending in the state; and

WHEREAS, visitors from all over the world come to enjoy the natural beauty of our clean beaches, salt and freshwater marshes, inlets, estuaries and tributaries; and

WHEREAS, the City of Southport and her surrounding coastal communities are rich in natural areas that provide sanctuary, nesting and breeding grounds for diverse groups of migratory birds, turtles, dolphin, whales, fish and other wildlife, some of which are on the endangered species list; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's coastal waters and natural habitats provide the world with some of the best wild-caught seafood, renowned for its freshness and exceptional quality; and

WHEREAS, the inherent risks to North Carolina's 320 miles of valued coastline from seismic surveying, offshore oil and natural gas exploration and drilling have the potential to irrevocably harm our natural environment, our economic well-being and our overall quality of life; and

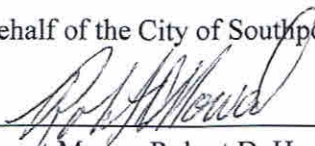
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Aldermen of the City of Southport reaffirm the resolution passed in 2014 in opposition to seismic surveying and are opposed to the exploration and development of oil/gas resources on the continental shelf or elsewhere off the coast of North Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Aldermen of the City of Southport stand in solidarity with North Carolina coastal communities and communities who may be affected by the onshore infrastructure supporting offshore exploration and drilling and who may suffer long-term social, economic and environmental impacts from offshore exploration and production of petroleum resources on the continental shelf off the coast of North Carolina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Aldermen of the City of Southport call upon all North Carolina municipal and county governing bodies of North Carolina to pass similar resolutions to this one and that the League of Municipalities joins in this effort.

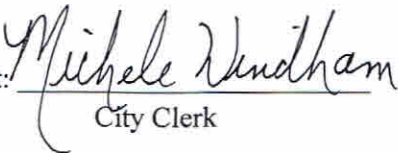
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Aldermen of the City of Southport urge the Governor McCrory and the entire North Carolina General Assembly to oppose offshore petroleum production policies that risk the health, safety and sound environmental stewardship of North Carolina's coastline whose natural beauty attracts a proven tourism-driven economy.

On Behalf of the City of Southport Board of Aldermen:



Southport Mayor, Robert D. Howard

Attest:



City Clerk

