

A Resolution Expressing the City of Tybee Island's Opposition to Seismic Testing and Offshore Drilling Activities

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is currently in the process of trying to open the mid- and south-Atlantic planning areas to exploration and development of offshore oil and gas, which will include the utilization of methods such as seismic airgun blasting; and,

WHEREAS, the seismic data collected during any exploration activities will be proprietary and will not be available for review by the State of Georgia, the City of Tybee Island, or members of the public; and,

WHEREAS, it will be impossible for the City of Tybee Island to give adequate consideration to the costs, benefits, and risks of BOEM's offshore oil and gas proposal due to the lack of transparency of this process; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Tybee Island cannot fully participate in the BOEM planning process without appropriate access to the resource studies conducted off our coast; and,

WHEREAS, the full impacts of seismic testing and offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean are not yet fully understood by scientists or the federal government, and lower-impact alternative technologies may be available for exploration in the near future; and,

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

WHEREAS, eventual offshore drilling may require onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which may compromise the character of our coast; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tybee Island is concerned about the potential impacts of offshore drilling activities off our coast; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tybee Island is a Georgia municipality where a major economic force is tourism related to the appreciation of our natural coastal environment and laid-back quality of life; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Tybee Island endeavors to be a good steward of its coastal and environmental resources; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Tybee Island believes that more research should be done to fully understand and to better address the impacts of seismic testing, and an testing should be done in a transparent manner and the options for mitigating those impacts explored before exploration begins,

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT:

The Tybee Island City Council, representing the City of Tybee Island, opposes the current BOEM proposal for seismic testing and offshore oil and gas development off the Georgia coast.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED, September 10, 2015.

Signed and sealed:



Mayor Jason Buelterman

Attest: 

Jan Leviner, Clerk of Council

