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DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD RESOLUTION OPPOSING SEISMIC TESTING AS PROPOSED BY THE BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMATIC ENVIROMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT-ALTERNATIVES A AND B

WHEREAS, seismic testing as proposed in the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement alternatives A and B have the potential to harm marine life; and

WHEREAS, seismic testing as proposed in BOEM Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement alternatives A and B have the potential to negatively impact recreational and commercial fishing; and

WHEREAS, Dare County's major economic force is tourism related to the coastal environment; and

WHEREAS, according to visitor research, the clean ,open-access beaches are the number one reason visitors come to Dare County, and 2012 tourism expenditures totaled more than $926,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the full impacts of seismic testing as proposed in BOEM Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement alternatives A and B are not yet fully understood by scientists, the Oil & Gas industry, or BOEM, and

WHEREAS, the Dare County Tourism Board believes that more research should be done to fully understand all impacts of seismic testing and options for mitigation of those impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Dare County Tourism Board has previously opposed offshore exploration for natural gas and/or oil along the coast of North Carolina.
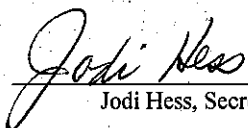
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Dare County Tourism Board is opposed to seismic testing as proposed in alternatives A and/or B of BOEM's Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement until such time as all testing options are evaluated and proper assurances for the protection of marine life are established.

ADOPTED THIS 24th DAY OF APRIL 2014, by unanimous support of the Dare County Tourism Board.

DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD

Monica Thibodeau, Chair

ATTEST:

Jodi Hess, Secretary