

CITY OF GEORGETOWN STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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

WHEREAS, seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean. These dynamite-like blasts can occur as frequently as every ten seconds, for days to weeks at a time and are loud enough to harm marine and aquatic life; and

WHEREAS, the full impacts of seismic testing and offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean are not yet fully understood by scientists, the oil and gas industry, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, 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 significant risk of a spill; and

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

WHEREAS, offshore drilling activities pose threats for the coastal wetland areas of Georgetown, which are of intrinsic ecological value for numerous migratory bird species, 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 Georgetown is a South Carolina municipality where a major economic force is tourism related to the appreciation of our natural coastal and historical environment, including commercial and recreational fishing which are also the primary factors contributing to the high quality of life the City's residents enjoy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Georgetown endeavors to be a good steward of its coastal environment and its resources; and

WHEREAS, the exploration and development of oil and natural gas off the mid-Atlantic coast will not effectively or fully address the long-term energy needs of our country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GEORGETOWN, IN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED, THAT THE CITY IS OPPOSED TO SEISMIC TESTING AND OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT OFF OF THE South Carolina COAST AT THIS TIME.

ADOPTED this 16th day of April 2015. **ATTEST:**