



The Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce

Serving Currituck and Dare Counties, Ocracoke Island

P.O. Box 1757 • 101 Town Hall Drive • Kill Devil Hills, NC 27948

252.441.8144 *Voice* • 252.441.0338 *Fax*

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THE OUTER BANKS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RESOLUTION OPPOSING OFF-SHORE EXPLORATION FOR NATURAL GAS AND/OR OIL

WHEREAS, off-shore exploration for natural gas and/or oil has been a recurring issue in North Carolina for nearly 30 years; and

WHEREAS, the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce has stated their opposition to off-shore exploration for natural gas and/or oil previously; and

WHEREAS, in his February 2013 State of the State Address Governor Pat McCrory's reaffirmed vow for "... immediate action to begin drilling off [the] Atlantic coast..." calls for strong action by North Carolina's coastal communities, environmental conservation organizations, and all interested persons and businesses, to stand firmly in opposition to this serious economic and environmental threat; and

WHEREAS, the 20 counties that compromise North Carolina's coastal region generate more personal and commercial income, public revenues, and employment opportunities, than the petroleum and natural gas industry is estimated to bring in to the state, specifically

- In 2013 a record \$20.2 billion in domestic visitor/tourism spending was realized in North Carolina; and
- Out of the 100 counties in the State of North Carolina, in terms of travel expenditures, three of the top 10 counties, in 2012, are coastal counties, including #4, Dare County, which generated \$926,320,000 and more than 11,500 jobs; and
- Dare County alone provides 5% of North Carolina's travel income; and
- Direct tourism employment in North Carolina is approximately 197,700 persons, with a direct tourism payroll of \$4.6 billion; and
- Visitors to North Carolina generated more than \$3 billion in federal, state and local taxes in 2013; and
- The National Marine Fisheries Service reported fish landings in 2012 in North Carolina to be worth \$72,95,625 and

WHEREAS, visitors come from all over the world to enjoy the natural beauty of our clean beaches, salt and fresh water marshes, sounds, and tributaries; and

WHEREAS, many of these natural areas provide sanctuary and nesting/breeding grounds for diverse groups of migratory birds, turtles, whales, fish and other forms of wild life; and

WHEREAS, along with recreational enjoyment, our 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, in 2013, Dr. Mike Walden, William Neal Reynolds Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics prepared "The Economic Potential from Developing North Carolina's On-Shore and Off-Energy Resources" as a research project to take an "objective look at the benefits and costs of developing North Carolina's energy resources;" and

WHEREAS, the study concluded that off-shore drilling would generate \$181 million in annual income, of which \$11 million would be public revenues, with, 1,122 jobs created, over a seven-year build-up period, and

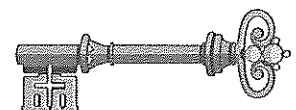
WHEREAS, after the first seven years, over a 30-year period off-shore drilling would generate \$1.9 billion in incomes annually, of which \$116 million would be public revenue, with 16,910 jobs create; and actual prices of these resources; and

WHEREAS, these projections are contingent on the actual quantities of oil and gas off-shore, as well as actual prices of these resources; and

WHEREAS, the estimated revenues from off-shore exploration and mining of oil and natural as do not come near the proven and anticipated growth of revenues directly related to coastal North Carolina's tourism industry; and

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WHEREAS, along North Carolina's northern Outer Banks region the county and local governments are pursuing shoreline protection through beach nourishment to protect and preserve the opportunities for beach enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, the inherent risks to our region from off-shore 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, proven by considering just two massive spills in waters contiguous to the United States;

- The Exxon Valdez in 1989, which leaked 10.8 million gallons of crude oil in to Prince William Sound, causing \$300 million dollars in environmental damage, and causing 32,000 watermen, who made their living mostly on commercial fishing, economic harm, and reduced tourism by 35 percent in southwest Alaska in the year after spill; and
- The Deep-water Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, which leaked 205.8 million gallons of crude oil, contaminating 1,100 linear miles of coastline, and caused a net negative impact on tourism across Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida, even though perception of damage and impact on leisure activities, and seafood industries of these states were found to be worse than the actual physical environmental damage caused by the oil spill; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce continues to be opposed to exploration and production of petroleum resources on the continental shelf or elsewhere off the coast of North Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce urges all coastal region local governments, Governor Patrick McCrory, and the entire North Carolina General Assembly to oppose offshore petroleum production policies that risk the proven tourism-drive economy of coastal North Carolina.

ADOPTED THIS 7TH DAY OF JULY 2014, by support of the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce.

OUTER BANKS CHAMBER OF COMMERICE

Mike Pringle, Chairman of the Board

Karen Brown, President & CEO

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