

NO. 2014-165

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA CITY COUNCIL
OPPOSING SEISMIC AIR-GUN TESTING IN
THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND THE EASTERN
GULF OF MEXICO; AND PROVIDING AN
EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, President Obama's Administration is currently considering a proposal to allow seismic air-gun testing in the Atlantic Ocean to search for oil and gas; and

WHEREAS, the use of air guns to conduct these seismic tests threatens fish populations and profitable fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the type of seismic air-gun testing used to search for oil and gas is incredibly harmful and could injure or possibly kill thousands of marine mammals and fish including the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale; and

WHEREAS, the seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air – almost as loud as explosives every 1-12 seconds twenty-four hours a day for days to weeks on end. These loud air-gun blasts can be heard for many hundreds of miles in the ocean and can drive whales to abandon their habitats, go silent and cease foraging over vast areas. At shorter distances, air-guns can cause permanent hearing loss, injury and even death for whales, dolphins and fish; and

WHEREAS, the proposed seismic air-gun testing will result in serious negative impact to our marine resources which form the foundation of economic vitality for communities all along the Atlantic Coast; and

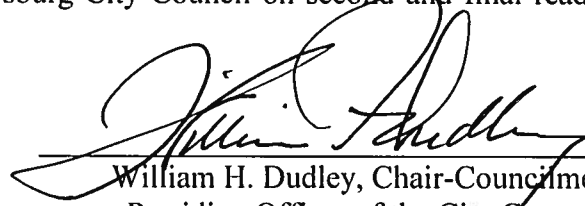
WHEREAS, although the City of St Petersburg is located on the Gulf Coast of western Florida, the economic vitality of communities on the Atlantic Coast affects the economic vitality of Florida and all of its cities, and there exists the possibility that this activity could later move into the eastern Gulf of Mexico which would directly negatively impact the City and its citizens.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida urges the President's Administration to stop this process and focus on ensuring the vitality of vulnerable local economies along the Atlantic Coast and the eastern Gulf of Mexico because we cannot continue to put our ocean environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to President Obama.

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted by St. Petersburg City Council on second and final reading on the 17th day of April, 2014.



William H. Dudley, Chair-Councilmember
Presiding Officer of the City Council

ATTEST: 
Eva Andujar, City Clerk

