

**A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE TOWN OF THUNDERBOLT'S OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING AND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING**

**WHEREAS**, the United States government has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas development and exploration, including risky methods such as seismic airgun blasting; and,

**WHEREAS**, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean every 10-12 seconds for days, weeks, or months on end; and,

**WHEREAS**, seismic airgun noise has been shown to harm and injure dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and,

**WHEREAS**, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of an oil spills and chronic leakage; and,

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

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Georgia's Coasts, which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, provide essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Thunderbolt recognizes that the tourism and fishing industries, which depend on a healthy and vibrant coastal environment, both serve as major economic drivers benefitting the current and future residents, property owners, and visitors to Georgia; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Thunderbolt endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Thunderbolt recommends that it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy such as solar and wind, that pose less risk to the coastal environment and economic health before using uncertain methods of seismic airgun blasting for offshore oil and gas deposits.

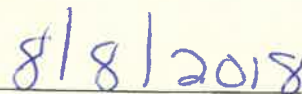
**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF THUNDERBOLT** that: Offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, will put Georgia's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk; therefore the Town Council expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices of Georgia's coast.

The Town Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Georgia's Governor as well as Georgia's State Senators and State Representatives including U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke; U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, and other interested parties.



Mayor, Town of Thunderbolt

On behalf of the Town of Thunderbolt Town Council



Date