

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF LIBERTY

RESOLUTION

TO EXPRESS LIBERTY COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO GROWING A PROSPEROUS COASTAL GEORGIA ECONOMY THROUGH OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING AND 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 local communities; and,

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Georgia's Coast, 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**, Liberty County recognizes that the tourism and fishing industries, which depend on a healthy and vibrant coastal environment, both serve as major economic drivers benefiting the current and future residents, property owners, and visitors to Georgia; and,


**WHEREAS**, exploration and development of oil and gas resources off the coast of Georgia will not effectively address the long-term energy needs of our country; and,

**WHEREAS**, Liberty County 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; and

**WHEREAS**, 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 Council expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Georgia's coast.

**NOW THEREFORE**, Be it resolved, Liberty County shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Governor Brian Kemp, U. S. Senators Johnny Isakson and David Perdue; U. S. Representative Earl Buddy Carter; State Senator Ben Watson; State Representative Al Williams; U.S. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, and any other interested parties.

  
Donald L. Lorette, Chairman

  
Joseph W. Brown, County Administrator



CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF A RESOLUTION DULY PASSED BY THE LIBERTY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AT THEIR MEETING HELD MAY 16, 2019. I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT SAID RESOLUTION IS SPREAD UPON THE MINUTES OF SAID BOARD.



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Joseph W. Brown  
County Administrator