

(STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
(
(CITY OF FLORENCE)

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-21

A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE CITY OF FLORENCE'S OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES AND SEISMIC TESTING.

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

WHEREAS, seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean, as frequently as every ten seconds for days to weeks on end; 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, BOEM, 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, offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines and oil refineries, which would harm the character of South Carolina's coastline and could exacerbate wetlands loss as well as storm surge and sea level rise impacts; and

WHEREAS, the harmful impacts from offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration anywhere along the Atlantic coastline could extend far beyond immediately surrounding areas and severely impact communities that rely on the robust economy of the marine industry; and

WHEREAS, the S.C. Board of Economic Advisors and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have recognized that the South Atlantic coastline is vulnerable and subject to the highest sensitivity to spilled oil; and

WHEREAS, the vibrancy of the South Carolina coast is a central element of its identity and quality of life, as well as an economic driver bringing tens of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars to the economy from tourism; and

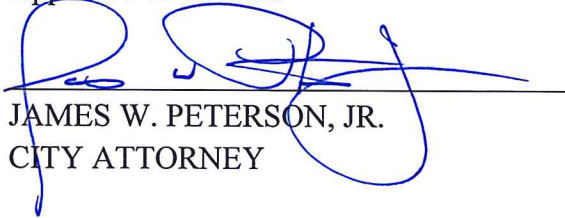
WHEREAS, the City of Florence endeavors to be a good steward of the state's environment and its resources; and

WHEREAS, the City of Florence recognizes the negative ecological and economic impacts oil and gas drilling would bring the coast of South Carolina and understands the importance in protecting our vulnerable coastal environment.

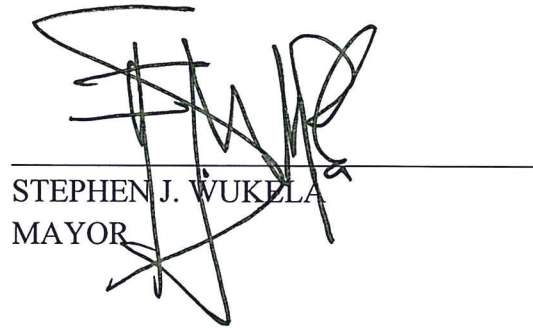
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Florence, South Carolina, is opposed to offshore drilling activities and seismic testing off the South Carolina coast.

RESOLVED THIS 14th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2019.

Approved as to form:

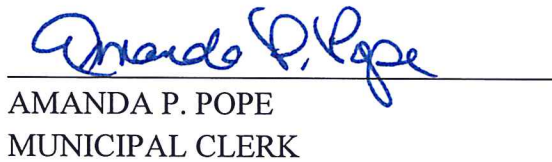


JAMES W. PETERSON, JR.
CITY ATTORNEY



STEPHEN J. WUKELA
MAYOR

ATTEST:



AMANDA P. POPE
MUNICIPAL CLERK