

RESOLUTION 2020-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF HURLOCK, MARYLAND IN OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE SEISMIC TESTING AND DRILLING FOR OIL AND GAS.

WHEREAS, the Town of Hurlock, Maryland was designated a Sustainable Maryland community in 2015; and

WHEREAS, scientific study has proven that seismic air gun blasting, to explore for oil and gas deposits, disrupts and displaces marine life and threatens our coastal wetlands in Maryland, which are of intrinsic ecological value for numerous diverse species, serve as essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surges and hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration places coastal communities at economic and ecological risk from oil spills and the pollution brought on by routine drilling operations and on shore industrialization, threatening the livelihoods of commercial and recreational fisherman and small businesses that rely on a clean and healthy ocean and beaches for a thriving tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling may require significant offshore infrastructure, such as pipelines and refineries, which would harm the character of Maryland's coastline, perpetuates our ties to carbon pollution, and exacerbates wetland loss, storm surge, and sea level rise impacts; and

WHEREAS, tourism that is related to the appreciation of our natural coastline and historical environment is a major economic force in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Hurlock, Maryland endeavors to be a good steward of the State's environment and its resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HURLOCK, MARYLAND that the Council opposes offshore oil and gas drilling, and exploration activities, including air gun blasting, in the mid-Atlantic Ocean adjacent to Maryland's coastline.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HURLOCK, MARYLAND that a copy of the Resolution be sent to the Governor, Maryland's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District House and Senate Delegations to the 117 Congress, the President of the Maryland Senate, and the Maryland House Speaker.

THE ABOVE RESOLUTION was introduced, read and passed at the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Hurlock, Maryland held on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020 and is to become effective immediately upon adoption.

