



RESOLUTION 19-01

A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE GREATER FORT WALTON BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING AND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.

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; 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 Florida'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 Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce 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 Florida; and,

WHEREAS, the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce understands the importance of the local military bases to the defense and protection of our nation; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and,

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THIS 27TH DAY OF JUNE 2019 BY THE GREATER FORT WALTON BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THAT:

Offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk; therefore the Board of Directors expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast.

Signed [Signature] Date: 6-24-19 Matt Turpin, 2019 Chair of the Board

Attest: [Signature] Ted Corcoran, President/CEO

2019 Sponsors

