RESOLUTION 2019-07

A RESOLUTION BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND, PURSUANT TO SECTION 33 AND 34 OF THE CITY CHARTER AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND TO SUPPORT GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN’S REQUEST FOR THE MID-ATLANTIC TO BE EXEMPT FROM OFFSHORE DRILLING AND SEISMIC AIR GUN ACTIVITY.

WHEREAS, Executive Order #13795 was signed by the U.S. President to expand the lease sales for offshore drilling, expedite seismic permitting, rollback protections for marine areas, and reconsider drilling safety regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Atlantic is one of the regions designated by the Executive Order; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the state of Maryland, along with the Governors of seven other Atlantic seaboard states, signed a bipartisan letter to the Interior Secretary asking for exemption to the off-shore drilling expansion, which expansion includes controversial seismic air gun activity; and

WHEREAS, the Governor’s letter stated that “not only are ocean and ocean-side resources at risk, but also nearby bays, estuaries, coastal communities, iconic natural areas, and ports,” the letter also stated “The irreversible impact on ecosystems including marine mammals, fish, sea turtles, and other aquatic life that inhabit the ocean offshore is gravely concerning, as is the potential risk and harm to our state’s economies, our natural resources, our military installations, and our residents;” and

WHEREAS, the City of Havre de Grace, positioned atop the Chesapeake Bay, is a city that prides itself on good stewardship of its natural resources, as evidenced by the City’s responsible policies and practices and compliance with state and federal Clean Water Act and other environmental regulations, and recognizes the viable threat to the ecology of the Bay, and to the local economy, in the event of a catastrophic oil spill; and

WHEREAS, support for the Governor’s exemption request by the City of Havre de Grace is consistent with the City’s environmentally responsible practices and policies to protect the Chesapeake Bay waters for its citizens and visitors, without requiring the City to expend funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is on this 6th day of May, 2019, resolved and ordained by the Mayor and City Council to the City of Havre de Grace, that the City supports the exemption request filed by Governor Hogan, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the Maryland General Assembly in opposition to seismic air gun activity and expansion of oil drilling in the Mid-Atlantic as permitted by Executive Order #13795.

ATTEST:  
Patrick D. Sypolt, Director of Administration

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF HAVRE DE GRACE

William T. Martin, Mayor

Introduced: May 6, 2019

Adopted: May 6, 2019