RESOLUTION

OPPOSING OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND EXPLORATION, INCLUDING SEISMIC TESTING NEAR NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, on January 4, 2018 the Secretary of the Interior announced a draft proposal to lease areas off the Atlantic coast from the Delaware Bay to Cape Canaveral for seismic testing, oil and gas exploratory testing and drilling; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ralph S. Northam has announced Virginia's opposition to the offshore drilling proposal, and has requested that areas off the coast of Virginia be exempted; and

WHEREAS, the tourism and aquaculture industries are vital to the economies of the Town of Cheriton and Northampton County and could be devastated by an offshore energy exploration catastrophe; and

WHEREAS, the speculative benefit of oil and gas drilling is not worth the risk of a Deepwater Horizon-type disaster that could cripple the regional environment and economy for decades;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CHERITON that the Council opposes offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling, including seismic testing adjacent to Virginia's coastline.

TOWN OF CHERITON

May

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Attest:

Town Clerk