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DEPUTY MAYOR
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VILLAGE OF PATCHOGUE

RESOLUTION #93-2019

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING

The Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of Patchogue, duly convened, do hereby declare as follows:

WHEREAS, New York is currently the third largest ocean economy in the nation with almost 320,000 jobs and billions of dollars of the state's gross domestic product that depend on clean, oil-free water and beaches, and abundant fish and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, a booming Long Island tourism economy alone provides \$5.6 billion into New York's ocean wealth and Long Island is the heart of the \$180 million New York annual fishing industry, all of which benefit from a healthy ocean and coast; and

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

WHEREAS, offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of New York's coastline and could exacerbate wetlands loss, 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, offshore drilling and exploration perpetuates our ties to dirty carbon pollution and contributes to climate change and the resulting sea level rise and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, the current Administration has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean to offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, which includes the use of seismic airguns which fire intense blasts of compressed air that rank just behind military explosives as the loudest source of noise in the ocean, every 10 – 12 seconds, 24 hours a day, for months on end; and

WHEREAS, the magnitude of the seismic survey activity used to explore for oil and gas deposits and the relatively flat sandy bottom of the North Atlantic seafloor are very likely to disrupt and displace marine life, such as whales which rely on sound to find food and mate, and can impair the health of many fish and shellfish species, including those of commercial importance like squid, lobster, and scallops.

NOW THEREFORE, be it **RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees:

THAT, the that the Village Board of Patchogue Village hereby finds that offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration unnecessarily risks our economic and ecological health and thus, the Village Board opposes any plan or legislation which encourages oil and gas development or exploration offshore that would impact the citizens of New York State; and

THAT, the Village Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, United States Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Representative Lee Zeldin, New York State Senator Monica Martinez, and New York State Assemblyman Andrew Garbarino; and

THAT, the Mayor is duly authorized to enforce the provisions of this resolution; and

THAT, this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Aye Nay

X ___ Mayor Pontieri

ABSENT Trustee Felice

X ___ Trustee Keyes

X ___ Trustee Devlin

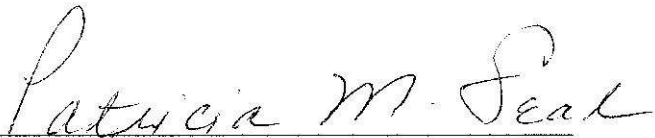
Aye Nay

X ___ Trustee Brinkman

X ___ Trustee Krieger

X ___ Trustee Ferb

Dated: July 22, 2019


Patricia M. Seal - Village Clerk