

CITY OF WESTPORT, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 898

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
WESTPORT, WASHINGTON IN OPPOSITION TO  
OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND EXPLORATION  
ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING**

**WHEREAS**, thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of the state's gross domestic product in Washington State depend on clean, oil-free water and beaches and abundant fish and wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, the vast majority of Washington State's ocean wealth stems from tourism and recreation, fishing, and aquaculture, which benefits from a clean and 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 livelihoods 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 Washington State'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 Pacific coastline could extend far beyond immediately surrounding areas and severely impact communities that rely on the robust economy of the fishing and recreation industries; 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 Pacific 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**, seismic airgun blasting to explore for oil and gas deposits has been proven to disrupt and displace marine life, such as whales and orcas 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 rockfish, crab, and oysters; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Westport recognizes that our communities, businesses, and industries depend on a healthy coastal environment for the benefit of current and future residents, property owners, and visitors;


**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Westport, Washington, that

**SECTION 1.** The City of Westport finds that offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration unnecessarily risks our economic and ecological health and therefore opposes any plan or legislation which encourages oil and gas development and exploration offshore that would impact the citizens of Washington State.

**SECTION 2.** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Westport City Council.

**SECTION 3.** The City shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Washington State Governor Jay Inslee, U. S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell; U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer; State Senators Kevin Van de Wege and Dean Takko; State Representatives Steve Tharinger, Mike Chapman, Brian Blake, and Jim Walsh; and any other interested parties.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Westport, Washington, at an open public meeting thereof on this 29th day of January, 2018.

  
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Robin L. Bearden, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Margo Tackett, City Clerk