

TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN, RI

**A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED INCLUSION OF THE
NORTH ATLANTIC REGION IN THE 2019-2024 NATIONAL OUTER CONTINENTAL
SHELF OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management (BOEM) in the U.S. Department of Interior has released the 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program, a draft program proposal for offshore oil and gas leasing for the next five years; and

WHEREAS, the proposal would open the federal waters of the North Atlantic region to oil and gas exploration and drilling, an area that begins just three miles off the coasts of New Jersey through Maine, within which the State of Rhode Island is centrally situated; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders have long relied upon New England's marine environment as a source of food, jobs, and recreation and, through strong laws and leadership at the state and local levels, have conserved and protected our fisheries, habitats, and coastal resources; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island's commitment to sound marine and coastal stewardship has reaped enormous cultural, environmental, and economic benefits for the citizens of the State, with healthy coastal communities, a vibrant Narragansett Bay, a thriving tourist industry, and productive fisheries all serving as hallmarks of the Ocean State; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island has long been committed to sound ocean planning as a basis for accommodating new, sustainable ocean uses such as wind energy and is home to the nation's first offshore wind farm; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island recognizes and is acting upon the need to ensure that its coastal communities are resilient in the face of rising sea levels and other impacts associated with climate change; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas drilling has never been viewed as compatible with our state and regional interests and thus has been removed from consideration for decades; and

WHEREAS, prior experience has shown the devastating consequences of oil spills; and

WHEREAS, now, more than ever, Rhode Islanders, in every community, stand opposed to the use of our offshore waters to oil and gas drilling;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, united in our determination to protect our cultural heritage, our marine ecosystem, and our economic future, hereby call upon the Secretary of the Interior to remove the North Atlantic region from consideration for oil and gas exploration and drilling.

By resolution of the Charlestown Town Council at a meeting held on March 12, 2018.



Amy Rose Weinreich, CMC Town Clerk

