

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND HILL SUPPORTING GEORGIA'S COASTAL TOURISM
AND FISHERIES AND OPPOSING SEISMIC TESTING AND OIL DRILLING ACTIVITIES
OFF OF GEORGIA'S COAST**

A RESOLUTION supporting Georgia's coastal tourism and fisheries and opposing seismic testing and oil drilling activities off of Georgia's coast; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, Georgia's fishing and tourism industries and the state's economy are dependent on healthy natural environments and safe ocean systems along the Georgia coast; and

WHEREAS, Georgia's coast supports a significant fishing and tourism industry, which benefits the state economy in terms of 21,000 jobs and over \$1.1 billion of Georgia's gross domestic product (GDP); and

WHEREAS, Georgia's coast contains 368,000 acres of saltmarsh that provide essential nursery grounds for fish, shellfish, crab, and other marine life important to the vitality of local fisheries; and

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil pose the risk of a spill that could adversely affect Georgia's fishing and coastal tourism industries for decades; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil drilling requires onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which may compromise the character of our coastal landscapes and our communities; and

WHEREAS, scientific studies have found seismic testing to harm marine fisheries and marine mammals that are important to Georgia's coastal communities and economies; and

WHEREAS, seismic testing and offshore oil drilling risk the survival of the 400 remaining North Atlantic right whales, Georgia's state marine mammal that travels to our coast to give birth and is considered the most critically endangered whale species in the world; and

WHEREAS, seismic testing and offshore oil drilling activities may interfere with critical military preparedness, training, and testing activities taking place off the coast of Georgia and at King's Bay Naval Submarine Base and the Naval Undersea Warfare Training Range, which is under construction; and

WHEREAS, more than 140 of Georgia's towns and cities along the Atlantic Coast have passed official resolutions against Atlantic oil drilling and seismic testing, including Savannah, Tybee Island, Brunswick, St. Marys, Kingsland, Hinesville, and Porterdale; and

WHEREAS, 39 businesses in Georgia have come out publicly against offshore oil drilling and seismic testing due to the adverse economic and environmental impacts; and

WHEREAS, a healthy tourism industry and economy are vital to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of Georgia citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF RICHMOND HILL and the members of this body express their support for coastal Georgia tourism and fisheries and voice their opposition to oil exploration and drilling activities, including seismic testing, off of the Georgia coast.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City of Richmond Hill on March 20, 2018.



Russ Carpenter, Mayor

Attest:



Dawnne Greene, City Clerk