

NO SEISMIC TESTING

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By [the Times-Union editorial board](#)

Floridians are clear. We won't want oil and gas exploration anywhere near our precious beaches.

And so it makes no sense to allow seismic airgun surveys to be conducted off the coast.

U.S. Rep. John Rutherford pulled together an impressive roster of fellow House members to send a letter of protest regarding offshore oil and gas exploration.

The letter, also signed by Rep. Al Lawson, went to the Interior Department, which recently decided to move forward with offshore exploration.

Atlantic Coast economies dependent on a healthy ocean generate \$95 billion gross domestic product and nearly 1.4 million jobs annually.

Fishing, tourism and recreation are huge businesses in Florida.

More than 120 local governments have passed formal resolutions opposing oil and gas exploration or drilling in the Atlantic or eastern Gulf.

So why would the federal government ignore the clear will of the people?

Is there some sort of national emergency? Far from it.

America hasn't been in a better position on energy in generations.

Thanks to the natural gas boom and fracking for oil, there is plenty of petroleum available. At the same time, renewable energy continues to grow quickly.

The other outrage is that any information gained from the seismic surveys would not be available to the public, only the oil and gas industry.

All in all, a terrible decision by the Trump administration. But it could be reversed in the time it takes to send a Tweet.

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