

RESOLUTION 2008-26889

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE APPROVAL OF OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO IN AREAS OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY APPROVED FOR OIL LEASING AND OIL EXPLORATION.

WHEREAS, the Congressional ban on off shore oil drilling, which has been in effect since 1981, was put in place to reduce the chances of environmental damage from oil spills and to protect the tourist industry; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional ban states that no funds may be expended by the Department of the Interior for the conduct of offshore preleasing, leasing and related activities placed under restriction in the President's moratorium statement of June 12, 1998, in the areas of northern, central, and southern California; the North Atlantic; Washington and Oregon; and the eastern Gulf of Mexico south of 26 degrees N latitude and east of 86 degrees W longitude"; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Energy Department's forecasting arm has said opening the Pacific, Atlantic and eastern Gulf of Mexico regions to drilling would not have a significant impact on domestic crude oil and natural gas production or prices before the year 2030.

WHEREAS, the area with the potential for the greatest risk of environmental damage is the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico, off the western coast of Florida; and

WHEREAS, environmental specialists contend the major risk from drilling platforms is the wastewater they routinely discharge that contain drilling fluids and heavy metals including mercury; and

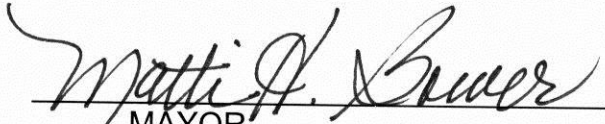
WHEREAS, according to Oil Industry data, an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico can dump up to 90,000 tons of drilling fluid and metal cuttings over its lifetime. These contaminants accumulate in the marine food web and might contaminate local beaches and have a negative effect on the environment and the tourism industry; and


WHEREAS, it is our belief that despite technological advances in oil rig drilling technology, there is no positive assurance that catastrophic damage to our coastline, beaches, plant and fish life could be avoided during normal operating conditions or during storm situations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA that the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach, Florida, highly encourage all elected officials at the County, State and Federal levels to oppose legislative attempts to allow off shore oil drilling expansion past the areas already approved for pre-leasing, leasing and oil production activities.


PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2008.

ATTEST:


MAYOR
Matti Herrera Bower


CITY CLERK
Robert Parcher

Approved as to form and
language and for execution


CITY ATTORNEY

9/2/08
Dated