

TOWN OF OAK ISLAND RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO SEISMIC TESTING AND OFFSHORE DRILLING

WHEREAS, the Town of Oak Island is committed to being a sound steward of its unique coastal environment, including maritime forest, estuaries, marshes, and beaches on and around Oak Island; and

WHEREAS, Oak Island and the North Carolina coast are locations of significant and famous cultural, historic and environmental resources including, among others, historic shipwrecks located and artifacts in this Graveyard of the Atlantic, nine miles of beaches enjoyed by tens of thousands of residents and visitors, and numerous nesting sites for endangered Sea Turtles; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Oak Island recognizes that its economic survival solely depends on the sustainability of the existing environment; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Oak Island has visitors from all over the world come to enjoy the natural beauty of our clean beaches, salt and freshwater marshes, inlets, estuaries and tributaries; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina’s coastal waters and natural habitats provide the world with some of the best wild-caught seafood, renowned for its freshness and exceptional quality; and

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of spill and offshore drilling requires substantial onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines and/or refineries, which will further risk the health and safety of the environment, character and natural beauty of North Carolinas coast; and

WHEREAS, it stands to reason that as the state of North Carolina has determined and legislated (ref Senate Bill S836: Oil Spill Liability, Response and Preparedness Act) it is necessary to the safety, health and welfare of the State to protect our coast from oil/gas exploration, it should protect and preserve her coastline and adjoining continental shelf from petroleum exploration and production.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; the Town of Oak Island is opposed to seismic testing and the exploration and development of oil and gas resources in the continental shelf or elsewhere off the coast of North Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; the Town of Oak Island stands in solidarity with North Carolina coastal communities and other communities who may be affected by the onshore infrastructure supporting offshore exploration and drilling and may suffer long-term social, economic and environmental impacts from offshore exploration and production of petroleum resources on the continental shelf off the coast of North Carolina.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; The Town of Oak Island urges Governor McCrory and the North Carolina General Assembly to oppose offshore petroleum production polices that risk the health, safety and sound environmental stewardship of North Carolina’s coastline, whose natural beauty attracts a proven tourism-driven economy.

This the 8th day of September, 2015.

Attested: Lisa P. Stites
Lisa P. Stites, CMC
Town Clerk



Betty W. Wallace
Mayor Betty W. Wallace