



A RESOLUTION OF CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL

TO EXPRESS THE COUNTY OF CHARLESTON'S OPPOSITION TO SEISMIC TESTING AND OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, The US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is currently in the process of trying to open the mid and south Atlantic planning areas to exploration and development of offshore oil and gas which will include the utilization of methods, such as seismic blasting; and

WHEREAS, the seismic data collected during any exploration activities will be proprietary and will not be available for review by the State of South Carolina, Charleston County, or members of the public; and

WHEREAS, it will be impossible for Charleston County to give adequate consideration to the costs, benefits, and risks of BOEM's offshore oil and gas proposal due to the lack of transparency of this process; and

WHEREAS, Charleston County cannot fully participate in the BOEM planning process without appropriate access to the resource studies conducted off our coast; and

WHEREAS, the full impacts of seismic testing and offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean are not yet fully understood by scientists, or the federal government, and lower-impact alternative technologies may be available for exploration in the near future; and

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a risk of a spill; and

WHEREAS, eventual offshore drilling may require onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which may compromise the character of our coast; and

WHEREAS, Charleston County is concerned about the potential impacts of offshore drilling activities on our coast; and

WHEREAS, Charleston County is a county in South Carolina where a major economic force is tourism related to the appreciation of our natural coastal and historical environment, which are also the primary factors contributing to the high quality of life the County's residents enjoy, enabling business recruitment, economic growth, and attracting new residents; and

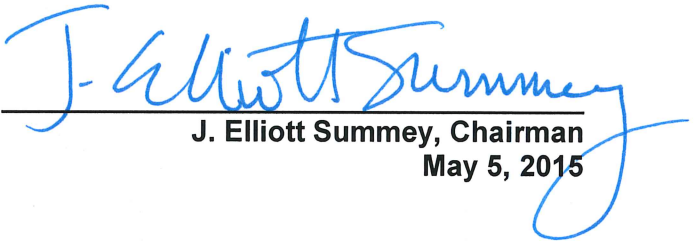
WHEREAS, Charleston County endeavors to be a good steward of its coastal environment and resources; and

WHEREAS, Charleston County believes that more research should be done to fully understand and to better address the impacts of seismic testing and any testing should be done in a transparent manner and the options for mitigating those impacts explored before exploration begins.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in meeting duly assembled, that Charleston County Council is opposed to the current BOEM proposal for seismic testing and offshore oil and gas development off the South Carolina coast.



CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL


J. Elliott Summey, Chairman
May 5, 2015