

Resolution of the City of Savannah, GA

Expressing Opposition: Seismic Testing and Offshore Drilling Activities

**A RESOLUTION: EXPRESSING THE CITY OF SAVANNAH'S OPPOSITION TO SEISMIC TESTING AND OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES.**

WHEREAS, the U.S. 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 Georgia, the City of Savannah, or members of the public; and,

WHEREAS, it will be impossible for the City of Savannah 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, the City of Savannah 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, the City of Savannah is concerned about the potential impacts of offshore drilling activities on our coast; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Savannah is a Georgia municipality 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 City's residents enjoy, enabling business recruitment, economic growth, and attracting new residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Savannah endeavors to be a good steward of its coastal environment and its resources; and,


WHEREAS, the City of Savannah 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.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT:

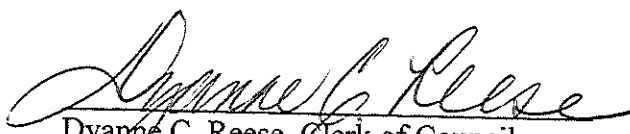
The City Council of the City of Savannah, representing the City of Savannah, opposes the current BOEM proposal for seismic testing and offshore oil and gas development off of the Georgia Coast.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED, April 30, 2015.

Signed and Sealed:

  
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Mayor Edna Jackson

Attest:

  
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Dyanne C. Reese, Clerk of Council