

18-R-053

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION,
INCLUDING SEISMIC TESTING AND DRILLING.**

WHEREAS, on January 4, 2018 the U.S. Secretary of the Interior announced a draft proposal to lease areas off the Atlantic coast, including the Virginia coast, for oil and gas exploratory testing and drilling; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 a similar proposal was scheduled to proceed but was cancelled after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico demonstrated the serious risks of offshore drilling; and

WHEREAS, Governor Ralph S. Northam has announced Virginia's opposition to the offshore drilling proposal, and has requested that areas off the coast of Virginia be exempt; and

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2018, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission unanimously approved a motion to take action in opposition to offshore drilling near the Virginia Coast and to request that the waters off the coast of Virginia be excluded from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's next iteration of the Five Year Oil and Gas Leasing Program; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local governments and other community groups have spent billions of dollars in funding and other resources in an effort to improve and maintain the condition of regional waterways, including the Chesapeake Bay; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chesapeake highly values the United States Navy and Coast Guard and opposes any action that may impede or complicate their mission; and

WHEREAS, tourism, commercial fishing and aquaculture industries are vital to the economies of Virginia and Hampton Roads, and both could be damaged by an offshore energy exploration catastrophe; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia finds that its obligation to protect the public health, safety and welfare requires the avoidance of unnecessary harm to the environment; and

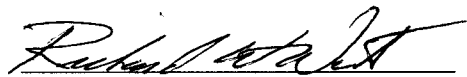
WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia finds that offshore drilling and seismic testing has the potential to have a direct and incalculable adverse impact on the citizens of Chesapeake and the Commonwealth, and threaten the aesthetic and environmental value of the area, including the potential for successful development as an eco-tourist destination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia:

1. That it is opposed to oil and gas exploration, including seismic testing and drilling, off the coast of Hampton Roads.
2. That the City Manager is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the members of the City's federal and state legislative delegations.

RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, this ___ day of October, 2018.

APPROVED:



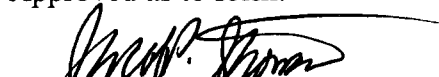
Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk of the Council

Approved as to form:



City Attorney