

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

**WHEREAS**, the federal administration has proposed seismic testing, and oil and gas exploration and drilling in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean from Delaware Bay to Cape Canaveral; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Chincoteague has enjoyed and continues to enjoy the economic benefits of its tourism and aquaculture industries associated with these waters; and

**WHEREAS**, these industries are thriving and growing and constitute an immense value to the local, regional, and national economy; and

**WHEREAS**, a healthy tourism and aquaculture industry and economy are necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of our citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Chincoteague has also enjoyed the economic benefits of the Wallops Island Flight Facility, located at Wallops Island Virginia for many years; and

**WHEREAS**, this facility is noteworthy for its current and future benefits to the town, region, and nation, containing as it does research, aeronautical, marine, and Naval Defense components, as well as space launch facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the lease of drilling rights offshore in areas currently proposed would occur in the very midst of the flight range for launches and have similar impacts on the Navy's use of our coastline for preparation of our nation's defense; and

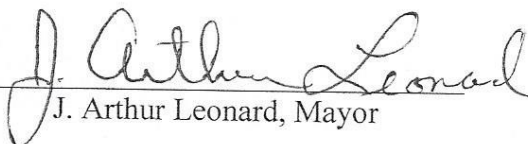
**WHEREAS**, the proposal to lease oil and gas exploration and drilling rights, including seismic testing, off Chincoteague's coastline has been opposed by the leadership of NASA and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS), as well as the United States Navy for well-founded and documented threats to their operational environment; and

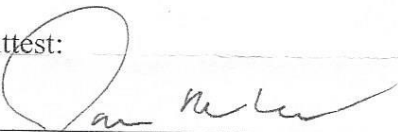
**WHEREAS**, as of June 1, 2018, more than 200 east coast municipalities and over 1,200 local, state, and federal elected officials including the Governors of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, fishery management councils, chambers of commerce, and other industry groups have formally opposed offshore drilling and/or seismic testing,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE** that the Council opposes offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling, including seismic testing in the mid-Atlantic Ocean adjacent to Virginia's coastline.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE** that the Council respectfully requests the assistance of United States Senators Kaine and Warner, as well as Congressman Taylor, in securing these essential protections for Virginia's coastline and its residents.

Adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Chincoteague Island, Virginia on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2018.

  
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J. Arthur Leonard, Mayor

Attest:  
  
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James W. West, Town Manager