

RESOLUTION 2018-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SAFETY HARBOR, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING AND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING

WHEREAS, the United States government has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas development and exploration, including risky methods such as seismic airgun blasting; and,

WHEREAS, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean every 10-12 seconds for days, weeks, or months on end; and,

WHEREAS, seismic airgun noise has been shown to harm and injure dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and,

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of an oil spills and chronic leakage; and,

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

WHEREAS, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Florida's Coasts, which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, provide essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Safety Harbor recognizes that the tourism and fishing industries, which depend on a healthy and vibrant coastal environment, both serve as major economic drivers benefiting the current and future residents, property owners, and visitors to Florida; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Safety Harbor endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and,

WHEREAS, exploration and development of oil and gas resources off the coast of Florida will not effectively address the long-term energy needs of our country; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Safety Harbor recommends that it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy such as solar and wind, that pose less risk to the coastal environment and economic health before using uncertain methods of seismic airgun blasting for offshore oil and gas deposits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SAFETY HARBOR, FLORIDA IN SESSION DULY AND REGULARLY ASSEMBLED THAT:

Section 1: Offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk; therefore the City Commission expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast.

Section 2: The City Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to the Governor, U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, and members of the Pinellas County legislative.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 18th DAY OF JUNE, 2018.

ATTEST:



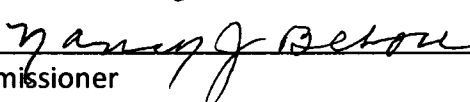
Karen Sammons, City Clerk



Mayor-Commissioner



Vice Mayor-Commissioner

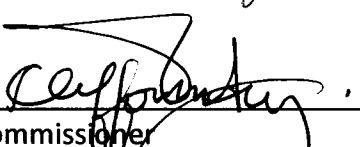


Commissioner

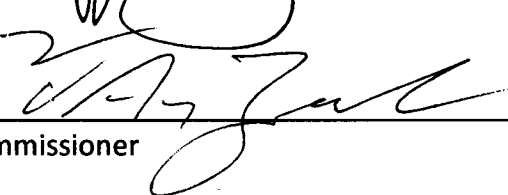
APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Nicole Nate, City Attorney



Commissioner



Commissioner