

TOWN OF RIVERHEAD

Resolution # 706

**SETS FORTH THE SENSE OF THE RIVERHEAD TOWN BOARD AND MEMORIALIZES  
OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND EXPLORATION**

Councilwoman Kent offered the following resolution,

which was seconded by Councilman Wooten

**WHEREAS**, New York is currently the third-largest ocean economy in the nation with almost 320,000 jobs and billions of dollars of the state's gross domestic product that depend on clean, oil-free water and beaches, and abundant fish and wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, a booming Long Island tourism economy alone provides \$5.6 billion into New York's ocean wealth and Long Island is the heart of the \$180 million New York annual fishing industry, all of which benefit from a healthy ocean and coast; and

**WHEREAS**, offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration places coastal communities at economic and ecological risk from oil spills and the pollution brought by routine drilling operations and onshore industrialization, threatening the livelihoods of commercial and recreational fisherman and small businesses that rely on a clean and healthy ocean and beaches; and

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of New York's coastline and could exacerbate wetlands loss, storm surge, and sea level rise impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, the harmful impacts from offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration anywhere along the Atlantic coastline could extend far beyond immediately surrounding areas and severely impact communities that rely on the robust economy of the marine industry; and

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling and exploration perpetuates our ties to dirty carbon pollution and contributes to climate change and the resulting sea level rise and extreme weather; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Administration has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean to offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, which includes the use of seismic airguns which fire intense blasts of compressed air that rank just behind military explosives as the loudest source of noise in the ocean, every 10-12 seconds, 24 hours a day, for months on end; and

**WHEREAS**, the magnitude of the seismic survey activity used to explore for oil and gas deposits and the relatively flat sandy bottom of the North Atlantic seafloor are very likely to disrupt and displace marine life, such as whales which rely on sound to find food and mate, and can impair the health of many fish and shellfish species, including those of commercial importance like squid, lobster, and scallops; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Riverhead recognizes that our communities, businesses, and industries depend on a healthy coastal environment for the benefit of current and future residents, property owners, and visitors alike.

**NOWHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Riverhead hereby finds that offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration unnecessarily risks our economic and ecological health and thus, the Town Board sets forth its opposition to any plan or legislation which encourages oil and gas development and exploration offshore that would impact the citizens of New York State; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, United States Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Representative Lee Zeldin, New York State Senator Kenneth P. LaValle, and New York State Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, Jr.; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that all Town Hall Departments may review and obtain a copy of this resolution from the town's electronic storage device and, if needed, a certified copy of same may be obtained from the Office of the Town Clerk.

**THE VOTE**

Kent Yes No

Giglio Yes No

Jens-Smith Yes No

Hubbard Yes No

Wooten Yes No

The Resolution Was  Thereupon Duly Declared Adopted