

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-1253

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF BAL HARBOUR VILLAGE, FLORIDA; EXPRESSING THE VILLAGE'S OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING; PROVIDING DIRECTION TO VILLAGE OFFICIALS; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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 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 Village of Bal Harbour 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 Village of Bal Harbour 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 Village of Bal Harbour finds 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; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds that expressing opposition to offshore drilling activities, including seismic airgun blasting, is in the best interest of the Village.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF BAL HARBOUR VILLAGE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals Adopted. That the above stated recitals are hereby adopted and confirmed.

Section 2. Finding. That offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources, and local economies at risk.

Section 3. Council Opposition to Federal Action. That it opposes offshore oil drilling and seismic airgun blasting off Florida's coast and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast. The Village Council further urges the State Administration and Florida Legislature to oppose any such federal actions.

Section 4. Distribution. That the Village Clerk is directed to distribute this Resolution to Governor DeSantis, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the Florida League of Cities, the Florida Association of Counties, the Florida City-County Management Association, Board of County Commissioners for Miami-Dade County, the Miami-Dade County League of Cities, the Miami-Dade County Legislative Delegation, and each of the municipalities in Miami-Dade County.

Section 5. Implementation. That the appropriate Village officials are hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents and to take all actions necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

Section 6. Effective Date. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon the adoption hereof.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of September, 2019.



Mayor Gabriel Groisman

ATTEST:

Dwight S. Danie, Village Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.
Village Attorney