

RESOLUTION NO. 19- 96

RESOLUTION PROTECTING OUR OCEAN AND COAST FROM OFFSHORE  
EXPLORATION AND DRILLING

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WHEREAS, the City of Asheville is a climate leader and understands the importance of transitioning away from fossil fuels to a renewable energy economy for climate stability; and

WHEREAS, we in Western North Carolina value the Atlantic Ocean for recreational, commercial, and educational activities, all of which support our state's economy; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's ocean economy contributed \$2.1 billion to GDP in 2013, and an estimated 43,385 jobs. (Sea Grant & Duke, 2017); and

WHEREAS, our city's residents value our state's ocean and coastal waters, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife, including endangered mammals, fish, sea turtles, and birds that depend on a healthy and clean environment; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling and seismic exploration off the Atlantic coast put these coastal resources, and the communities and industries that depend on them, at risk from oil spills, intense ocean noise, and other damage; and

WHEREAS, expanding offshore oil and gas drilling and seismic exploration threatens coastal stakeholders, marine wildlife, human health and climate; and

WHEREAS, the Trump administration has proposed to dramatically expand offshore oil and gas leasing in all US oceans; and

WHEREAS, several cities and states have taken a stand against new federal offshore oil, seismic blasting, and gas leases off the Atlantic coast; and

WHEREAS, expanding offshore drilling anywhere will deepen the country's dependence on fossil fuels and undermine its efforts to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and moving toward renewable energy; and

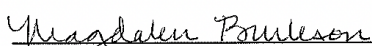
WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Interior develops and implements a nationwide offshore oil and gas leasing program that determines the size, timing and location of lease sales for the Outer Continental Shelf;

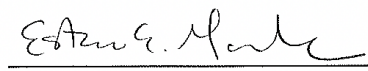
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City of Asheville supports (1) a ban on new offshore oil and gas drilling and seismic oil exploration in federal and state waters off the Atlantic coast, and (2) no new federal oil and gas leasing in all U.S. waters, including off the Atlantic Coast.


The Clerk shall forward a copy of this proclamation to acting Secretary David Bernhardt; Governor Roy Cooper; U. S. Senators Thom Tillis and Richard Burr; U.S. Congressmen Mark Meadows and Patrick McHenry; and any other interested parties.

Read, approved and adopted this 23rd day of April, 2019.

  
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City Clerk

  
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Mayor

Approved as to form:

  
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City Attorney