

A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE CITY OF FLEMINGTON'S COMMITMENT TO A PROSEROUS COASTAL GEORGIA THROUGH OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING AND 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 local communities; and,

WHEREAS, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Georgia's Coast, 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 Flemington 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 Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, the city of Flemington endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources and local coastal economy; and,

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

WHEREAS, the city of Flemington 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 OF FLEMINGTON THAT:

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

The Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Governor Brian Kemp, U. S. Senators Johnny Isakson and David Perdue; U. S. Representative Earl Buddy Carter; State Senator Ben Watson.; State Representatives Al Williams; Acting U.S. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, and any other interested parties.

Signed  Date: 4.9.19