

**A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE GREATER MARATHON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S
OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING 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 controversial 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 and economies on Florida's Coasts and the Florida Keys, 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 Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce 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 Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and,

WHEREAS, the Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce 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.

WHEREAS, the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic support 70,000 jobs in the Florida Keys, and generate over \$4.4 billion in revenue via tourism, fisheries, and related/supportive industries, which could be severely damaged by only one (1) drilling disaster, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GREATER MARATHON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 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; therefore, the Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast.

Signed _____

CEO, Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce

Date: 10/28/19