



510 GREENE STREET 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR • KEY WEST, FL 33040 • 305.294.2587 • FAX 305.294.7806 • [WWW.KEYWESTCHAMBER.ORG](http://WWW.KEYWESTCHAMBER.ORG)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GREATER KEY WEST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND EXPLORATION, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING.**

**WHEREAS**, the federal 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 at 200-230 decibels, every 10 seconds, 24 hours a day for weeks to months at a time, causing environmental disturbances that could prove harmful or injure and kill dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and

**WHEREAS**, the full impact of seismic airgun blasting and offshore drilling are not yet fully understood by scientists, the oil and gas industry, or the federal government, and

**WHEREAS**, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of an oil spill and leakage, threatening Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources, and local economies; and

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling activities pose threats to the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic Ocean, economically important fisheries, and every eco-system throughout the Florida Keys; and

**WHEREAS**, the Greater Key West 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.

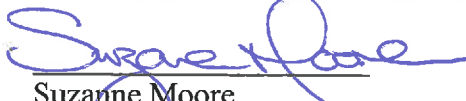
**WHEREAS**, the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic support 70,000 jobs in the Florida Keys, and generate about \$4.4 billion in revenue through fisheries, tourism, and related industries, which could be damaged irreparably by one drilling disaster, and


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GREATER KEY WEST CITY OF COMMERCE OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1:** The membership of the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce unanimously opposes offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, which will put Florida's beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk, and urges the Federal Government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast.

**Section 2:** That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of President and Executive Vice President of the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THIS 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2018**

  
Suzanne Moore  
President

  
Virginia A. Panico, CCE  
Executive Vice President