

RESOLUTION NO. 457

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CRISFIELD, MARYLAND IN OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE SEISMIC TESTING AND DRILLING FOR OIL AND GAS.

WHEREAS, the City of Crisfield, Maryland was designated a Sustainable Maryland community in 2014; and

WHEREAS, scientific study has proven that seismic air gun blasting, to explore for oil and gas deposits, disrupts and displaces marine life and threatens our coastal wetlands in Maryland, which are of intrinsic ecological value for numerous diverse species, serve as essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surges and hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration places coastal communities at economic and ecological risk from oil spills and the pollution brought by routine drilling operations and on shore industrialization, threatening the livelihoods of commercial and recreational fisherman and small businesses that rely on a clean and healthy ocean and beaches for a thriving tourism industry; and,

WHEREAS, offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines and refineries, which would harm the character of Maryland's coastline, perpetuates our ties to carbon pollution, and exacerbates wetland loss, storm surge, and sea level rise impacts; and,

WHEREAS, tourism that is related to the appreciation of our natural coastline and historical environment is a major economic force in the region; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Crisfield, Maryland endeavors to be a good steward of the State's environment and its resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CRISFIELD that the Council opposes offshore oil and gas drilling, and exploration activities, including air gun blasting, in the mid-Atlantic Ocean adjacent to Maryland's coastline.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CRISFIELD that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, Maryland's 1st Congressional District House and Senate Delegations to the 116th Congress, the President of the Maryland Senate, and the Maryland House Speaker.

THE ABOVE RESOLUTION was introduced, read and passed at the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Crisfield held on this ____ day of _____, 2019 and is to become effective immediately upon adoption.

Barry Dize, Mayor

LaVerne Johnson, Council
Vice President

Barbara Ward, Councilwoman

Nelson Sheppard, Councilman

Gail Lankford, Councilwoman

Jimmy Ford, Councilman

ATTEST: _____
Joyce L. Morgan,
Clerk-Treasurer

Richard M. Pollitt, Jr.
City Manager