

A RESOLUTION OF THE GREATER PENSACOLA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO AS IT IS RELATED TO THE PROTECTION OF OUR MILITARY MISSIONS, ECONOMY, AND TOURISM.

WHEREAS, the United States government has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas exploration; and

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of spills and chronic leakage; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce (GPC) is a business organization representing approximately 1,150 members in Northwest Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Pensacola area is dependent upon the tourism industry as a vital portion of our local economy and the GPC recognizes the protection of our beaches is essential to the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Gulf Range Complex in the eastern Gulf of Mexico is regarded as a national security asset for test and training missions. Multi-service test and training activities are conducted in the Joint Gulf Range, the largest test and training area in the nation, offering unique features that cannot be replicated anywhere in the United States. With technology advancements, the Joint Gulf Range Complex is taking on even greater importance for our nation's security.

WHEREAS, since 1983 federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line established in 2000, restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration. This mandated Military Mission Line (MML) protects the military Joint Gulf Range Complex allowing for real-time testing and training of advanced weapons systems for our national security.

WHEREAS, drilling structures and associated activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact our military's readiness and compromise our nation's military superiority.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors that:

The Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce opposes any oil exploration, drilling or related activities east of the Military Mission Line that would negatively impact the military's utilization of the Joint Gulf Range Complex for required test and training and potentially threaten our local tourism industry.

The GPC supports the continued enforcement of the MML beyond the existing 2022 moratorium in order to ensure Northwest Florida military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised and that our local economy is not jeopardized by potential oil spills. The GPC requests that Congress extend protection of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Military Mission Line beyond 2022 by amending the current Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA) to permanently enact the moratorium.

ADOPTED on the 19th day of August 2019.

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Thomson', written over a horizontal line.

Todd Thomson
President/CEO, Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce