

Subject: For the purpose of expressing St.  
Mary's County's opposition to  
offshore oil and gas drilling and  
exploration activities  
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**RESOLUTION**

**FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPRESSING ST. MARY'S COUNTY'S OPPOSITION TO  
OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES**

**WHEREAS**, on August 16, 2017, Governor Hogan formerly notified the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) of Maryland's opposition to opening up the Mid-Atlantic outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease area for oil and gas exploration and development activities as part of the 2019-2024, 5-year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program; 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 onshore industrialization, threatening the livelihoods of commercial and recreational fisherman and small businesses that rely on a clean and healthy ocean and beaches; and,

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

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling activities pose threats to the Chesapeake Bay, a major historical, cultural, economic and ecological treasure in this region; and

**WHEREAS**, seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, which create one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean at 200-230 decibels, occurring as frequently as every ten seconds, for days to weeks at a time; and

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

**WHEREAS**, St. Mary's County endeavors to be a good steward of the State's environment and its resources; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Mary's County recognizes that offshore drilling could impact activities at Naval Air Station Patuxent River and the use of the Atlantic Test Range, which could result in a negative economic impact for St. Mary's County; and

**WHEREAS**, tourism that is related to the appreciation of our natural coastal and historical environment is a major economic force in St. Mary's County; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Mary's County's maritime heritage contributes to a high quality of life for our residents to enjoy, enables business recruitment, and attracts new residents; and

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**WHEREAS**, St. Mary's County recommends that it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy through solar, wind, and biomass energy production projects that pose less risk to our coastal environment and economic health before using uncertain methods such as seismic blasting for offshore oil and gas exploration.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, that the County opposes offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration activities, including seismic air gun blasting, in the mid-Atlantic Ocean adjacent to Maryland's coastline.

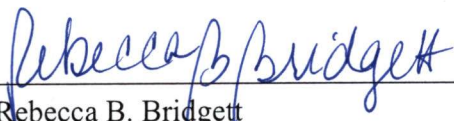
**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, Maryland's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District House and Senate Delegations to the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, the President of the Maryland Senate, and the Maryland House Speaker.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Commissioners of St Mary's County, that this Resolution shall be effective upon the date written below.

Those voting Aye: 5  
Those voting Nay: 0  
Those Abstaining: 0  
Date of Adoption: 1/29/19  
Effective Date: 2/12/19

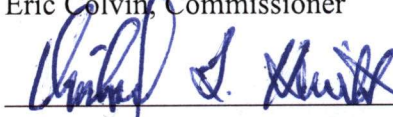
**ATTEST:**

**COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY**

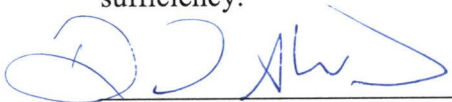
  
Rebecca B. Bridgett  
County Administrator

  
James R. Guy, Commissioner President

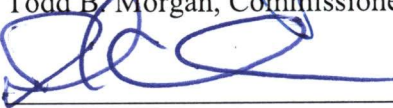
  
Eric Colvin, Commissioner

  
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner

Approved as to form and legal  
sufficiency:

  
David A. Weiskopf  
County Attorney

  
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner

  
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner