

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES AND EXPANSION OF OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the United States government has expressed interest in expanding offshore oil and gas development and exploration in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is in the process of finalizing its 5-year plan for offshore drilling, which will shape the future of energy development along our coasts; 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 on Florida's Coasts, 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 City of St. Augustine 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 City of St. Augustine endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and

WHEREAS exploration and development of oil and gas resources off the coast of Florida will not effectively address the long-term energy needs of our country; and

WHEREAS, expanded offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration in the Gulf of Mexico will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk.

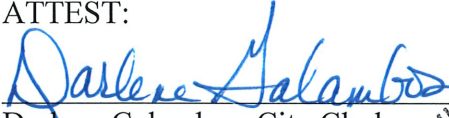
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City of St. Augustine 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.

Section 2. The City of St. Augustine expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast and issue no new leases in the final 5-year plan.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission for the City of St. Augustine, Florida this 26th day of June 2023.

ATTEST:


Darlene Galambos, City Clerk
(SEAL)


Nancy Sikes-Kline, Mayor

