



BOROUGH OF ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

RESOLUTION 098-2025

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF NEW OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING OFF THE COAST OF NEW JERSEY IN THE 11th NATIONAL OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the economy of Atlantic Highlands depends heavily on a healthy coastal and marine environment, supporting industries such as tourism, recreation, commercial and recreational fishing, and related small businesses; and

WHEREAS, clean water, thriving ecosystems, and an attractive coastal environment are vital to maintaining property values, sustaining local businesses, and ensuring the quality of life for residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas exploration, development, and drilling carry inherent risks, including oil spills, leaks, habitat destruction, and pollution, which could cause significant, long-term harm to our coastal economy, natural resources, and way of life; and

WHEREAS, even the perception of environmental risk associated with offshore drilling can negatively impact tourism, investment, and business development in coastal areas; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is developing the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program and has requested public input on whether to include new offshore leasing areas; and

WHEREAS, the protection of our coastal environment and economy is a priority for Atlantic Highlands, and the long-term well-being of our community outweighs the short-term benefits that expanded offshore drilling might offer to the oil and gas industry;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mayor and Council of Atlantic Highlands, Monmouth County, New Jersey, that:

1. **Atlantic Highlands formally opposes the inclusion of any exploration like seismic blasting and new offshore oil and gas leasing off the coast of New Jersey** in the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.
2. **Atlantic Highlands urges the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)** to prioritize the protection of coastal economies, communities, and ecosystems by excluding exploration and new offshore oil and gas leases from the final leasing program.
3. **Atlantic Highlands calls on our federal representatives in Congress** to oppose efforts to expand offshore drilling and to support policies that protect our oceans, coasts, and the industries and communities that depend on them.

4. A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Senator Declan O'Scanlon, Assemblyman Gerard Scharfenberger, Assemblywoman Vicky Flynn, and any other relevant officials.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey, on this 16 day of June 2025.

Motion: Approve Resolution **Moved by** Councilman Colasurdo; **Seconded by** Councilman Dougherty
Vote: Motion carried by roll call vote (summary: Yes = 6).

Yes: Councilman Colasurdo, Councilman Crowley, Councilwoman Cusack, Councilman Dougherty, Councilwoman Forbes, Councilman Pujols

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Councilman Colasurdo

I, Michelle Clark, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Atlantic Highlands, in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, hereby certifies this to be a true copy of the action of the Governing Body, at its Regular Meeting held June 16, 2025. WITNESS my hand this 16th day of June 2025.



Michelle Clark, Municipal Clerk

