

RESOLUTION 2025-134

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

WHEREAS, the economy of the Borough of Belmar, Monmouth County, 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 Borough of Belmar, Monmouth County, 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 the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Belmar, Monmouth County, State of New Jersey that:

- 1. Borough of Belmar, Monmouth County, formally opposes the inclusion of any exploration like seismic blasting and new offshore oil and gas leasing off the coast of [State] in the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.
- 2. Borough of Belmar, Monmouth County, 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. Borough of Belmar, Monmouth County, 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.

Councilwoman Donovan offered the above resolution and moved its adoption. Seconded by Councilman Levis and adopted by the following vote on roll call:

| Council Members:       | AYES | NAYS | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|------------------------|------|------|---------|--------|
| Mayor Buccafusco       | X    |      |         |        |
| Councilwoman Rondinaro | X    |      |         |        |
| Councilwoman Donovan   | X    |      |         |        |
| Councilman Levis       | X    |      |         |        |
| Councilwoman Kinney    | X    |      |         |        |

I, APRIL CLAUDIO, CLERK OF THE BOROUGH OF BELMAR, Monmouth County, and the State of New Jersey do hereby Certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true copy of the Original Resolution duly passed and adopted by a majority of the full membership of the Governing Body at its meeting of June 17, 2025.

  
APRIL CLAUDIO, RMC/CMC  
MUNICIPAL CLERK