RESOLUTION NO. 26-01-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, REITERATING ITS LONG-STANDING OPPOSITION TO THE INCLUSION OF NEW OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING OFF THE COAST OF FLORIDA IN THE FIVE-YEAR NATIONAL OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, Islamorada, Village of Islands (the "Village"), Village Council (the "Council") has repeatedly expressed its long-standing opposition to new offshore oil and gas exploration off the Coast of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (hereinafter "BOEM") is developing the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program, which would open over 31,000 square miles of new areas for offshore oil drilling moving this activity to within 100 miles of the Florida shoreline including the Dry Tortugas, a pristine, ecologically delicate, protected, historical and revered western most portion of Monroe County, and positioning permissible oil drilling operations within prevailing currents that portends that any spills would result in direct harms to the Florida Keys economy and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the BOEM, under the Department of Interior of the United States, in has requested public input on whether to include new offshore leasing areas by no later than **January 23, 2026;** and

WHEREAS, the Federal Register notice of the public comment period that was published on November 24, 2025, directs interested parties to submit comments either by:

a) Online submission through the "regulations.gov" web portal regarding "Docket ID: BOEM-2025-0482"; or

b) Mailed in an envelope labeled Comments to the 11th National OCS Oil and

Gas Leasing Program and mailed or hand delivered to Ms. Kelly Hammerle, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD), 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166-9216.

WHEREAS, the economy of the Village and Monroe County, better known as the Florida Keys, 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, our local economy is further enhanced through the military training activities that take place at Naval Air Station Key West (NASKW), which support flight training and test, surface vessel training and test, and subsurface test and training operations in the Eastern Gulf Test and Training Range (EGTTR), which is used by all branches of the military; and

WHEREAS, the training and test operations based out of NASKW, Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City as well as Eglin, Tyndall, and MacDill Air Force Bases, rely on unfettered access to the air and sea space over the Eastern Gulf of America; and

WHEREAS, the proposed oil exploration threatens the long-standing, unfettered encroachment free access by the U.S. military services to air and sea space of the Gulf; 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, the history of risk associated with the oil and gas industry and the inability to control harmful oil spills, as demonstrated in the 2010 Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill located nearly 300 miles from the Florida Keys and Monroe County, resulted historic damage to Florida's coastal shoreline as well as its economy; 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 protection of our citizens, community, ecosystems, coastal environment, military readiness and economy is a priority for the Council, and the Council finds that 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 VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Determinations.

a) The Council formally opposes the inclusion of any new offshore oil and gas leasing off the Florida coast in the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

b) The Council urges the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to prioritize the protection of coastal economies, communities, and ecosystems

by excluding new offshore oil and gas leases from the final leasing program.

c) The Council urges 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.

d) The Council expresses support for S. 3082, the American Shores Protection Act of 2025 that Senator Ashley Moody has sponsored and which has been co-sponsored by Senators Rick Scott and Lindsey Graham. That bill would permanently bar oil and gas drilling off the coasts of Florida including the Eastern Gulf.

e) The Village Clerk is directed to submit a certified copy of this resolution as the Council's public comment to Ms. Kelly Hammerle, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD), 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166-9216.

f) Village Staff is authorized to develop and submit more comprehensive comments on behalf of the Council.

g) The Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to:

1. President Donald J. Trump, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20500;
2. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, 1000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1000;
3. Governor Ron DeSantis, 400 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001;
4. Senator Rick Scott, 110 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510
5. Senator Ashley Moody, 387 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC

20510

6. Rep. Carlos Gimenez, 448 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515
7. State Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, 410 Senate Bldg., Tallahassee, FL 32399
8. State Representative Jim Mooney, 334 The Capitol, Tallahassee, FL 32399
9. The Clerks of the cities of Key Colony Beach, Key West, Layton, and Marathon as well as Monroe County with a request that each Clerk distribute this resolution to members of their governing bodies, their City or County Managers, and City or County Attorneys.

h) Members of the Community are encouraged to submit public comment opposing the proposal to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management by January 23, 2026, through the web portal or by mail.

Section 3. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

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Motion to adopt by Steve Friedman, seconded by Deb Gillis.

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION

VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS

Mayor Don Horton	Yes
Vice Mayor Sharon Mahoney	Yes
Councilman Steve Friedman	Yes
Councilwoman Deb Gillis	Yes
Councilwoman Anna Richards	Yes

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 6th DAY OF JANUARY, 2026.

DON HORTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MARNE MCGRATH, VILLAGE CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF
ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS:

JOHN J. QUICK, VILLAGE ATTORNEY