RESOLUTION 2025-12-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAYTON, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

OPPOSING 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, the economy of Monroe County, FL and the city of Layton, FL 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, seismic air gun blasting used in offshore oil and gas exploration poses a significant threat to marine life, including whales, dolphins, sea turtles, and fish stocks, by producing loud, repetitive underwater noise that can disrupt communication, navigation, reproduction, foraging behavior and undermines the health of robust marine ecosystems, directly threatening commercial and recreational fishing and the critical to local economies; and

WHEREAS, the health of our ecosystems from the smallest microbes to humans, are a delicately balanced symphony of symbiosis, where disruption and harm to any portion results in immeasurable, most often uncorrectable or mitigatable, sustained negative impacts; and

WHEREAS, the health of our ecosystems is a constant struggle to reverse years of harms from a vast array of human activities and conditions that have resulted in a weakening and death within our delicate ecosystems from Florida Bay to our coral reef, known as the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary including large portions of the Everglades and the only barrier reef in the northern hemisphere, that hosts approximately 25% of all marine species diversity

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, resulting in over 1300 miles of effected and damaged shorelines, including Florida from the "Pan Handle" to Tampa Bay to the eastern/ Atlantic coast of Florida, bringing unmitigable harms to humans and ecosystems including long term health, death, and unrecoverable economic harms; 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, 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, FL and positioning permissible oil drilling operations within prevailing currents that portends that any spills would result in direct harms to the Florida Keys and the ecosystems within, or symbiotic with those of the FL Keys, and that the BOEM under the Department of Interior of the United States has requested public input on whether to include new offshore leasing areas; and

WHEREAS, the protection of our citizens, community, ecosystems, coastal environment and economy is a priority for Monroe County, FL and Layton, FL, 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 city council of the City of Layton, in Monroe County, in the ecological wonder known as the great state of Florida that:

1. **The City of Layton, Monroe County, Florida formally opposes the inclusion of any new offshore oil and gas leasing off the coast of [State]** in the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.
2. **The City of Layton, Monroe County, Florida 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.
3. **The City of Layton, Monroe County, Florida 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), President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, FL Governor Ronald DeSantis, FL US Senator(s) Rick Scott, and Ashley Moody, US Representative Carlos Gimenez, FL State Representative Jim Mooney, FL State Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, and any other relevant officials.

Seat 1- Councilman Jared Rodriguez	NO_____	YES X
Seat 2- Councilwoman Megan Jones	NO_____	YES X
Seat 3- Vice Mayor Greg Lewis	NO_____	YES X
Seat 4- Councilwoman Cindy Lewis	NO_____	YES X
Seat 5- Councilwoman Susan Grant	NO_____	YES X

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of **City of Layton,** Monroe County Florida, on this 4th day of December 2025

City of Layton, Bruce Halle, Mayor

Mimi Young, City Clerk

SEAL