RESOLUTION NO. 565 - 2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, 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, the Board of County Commissioners (hereinafter "the Board") has repeatedly expressed its long-standing opposition to new offshore oil and gas exploration off the Coast of Florida, as most recently evidenced by Resolution 111-2017 as well as the Board's adopted legislative agendas in 2018 through the present; 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 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 Board, and the Board 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 Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida that:

1. The Board 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.
2. The Board 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 Board 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.
4. The Board 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.
4. The Clerk is directed to submit a certified copy of this resolution as the Board's public comment to Ms. Kelly Hammerle, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD), 45600 Woodland Road, Sterling, VA 20166-9216.
5. Staff is authorized to develop and submit more comprehensive comments on behalf of the Board.
6. The Clerk is directed to send a copy of this resolution to:
    a. President Donald J. Trump, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20500;
    b. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, 1000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1000;
    c. Governor Ron DeSantis, 400 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001;
    d. Senator Rick Scott, 110 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510
    e. Senator Ashley Moody, 387 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510
    f. Rep. Carlos Gimenez, 448 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515
    g. State Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez, 410 Senate Bldg., Tallahassee, FL 32399
    h. State Representative Jim Mooney, 334 The Capitol, Tallahassee, FL 32399
    i. The Clerks of the cities of Key Colony Beach, Key West, Layton, and Marathon as well as the Islamorada Village Clerk with a request that each Clerk distribute this resolution to members of their governing bodies, their City Managers, and City Attorneys.
7. 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.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at its regular business meeting held on the 10th day of December 2025, in Key Largo, Florida.

Mayor Michelle Lincoln	Yes
Mayor *Pro Tem* David Rice	Yes
Commissioner Craig Cates	Yes
Commissioner James K. Scholl	Yes
Commissioner Holly Merrill Raschein	Yes

(SEAL)
Attest: Kevin Madok, Clerk

By: _____
As Deputy Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Mayor Michelle Lincoln

Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency
For reliance by the Monroe County BOCC only:

Robert B. Shillinger, Jr. Digitally signed by Robert B. Shillinger, Jr.
Date: 2025.12.22 16:23:22 -05'00'

Robert B. Shillinger, Jr., County Attorney

FILED FOR RECORD
2025 DEC 30 AM 10:01
CLK CIR CT
MONROE COUNTY, FLA

Kevin Madok, CPA

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

December 30, 2025

Ms. Kelly Hammerle
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (VAM-LD)
45600 Woodland Road
Sterling, VA 20166-9216

Ms. Hammerle,

Attached is a certified copy of Resolution No. 565-2025 of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners 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.

This Resolution was adopted by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners at a regular meeting, held in formal session, on December 10, 2025. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (305) 292-3550.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Madok, CPA, Clerk of the
Circuit Court and ex-officio to the
Monroe County Board of County
Commissioners
By: Liz Yongue, Deputy Clerk

cc: File

Kevin Madok, CPA

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

December 30, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Attached is a certified copy of Resolution No. 565-2025 of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners 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.

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cc: File

Kevin Madok, CPA

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

December 30, 2025

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of War
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Attached is a certified copy of Resolution No. 565-2025 of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners 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.

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Kevin Madok, CPA

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

December 30, 2025

Governor Ron DeSantis
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Honorable Governor DeSantis,

Attached is a certified copy of Resolution No. 565-2025 of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners 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.

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Kevin Madok, CPA

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

December 30, 2025

Senator Rick Scott
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Senator Scott,

Attached is a certified copy of Resolution No. 565-2025 of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners 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.

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By: Liz Yongue, Deputy Clerk

cc: File

Kevin Madok, CPA

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

December 30, 2025

Senator Ashley Moody
United States Senate
387 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Senator Moody,

Attached is a certified copy of Resolution No. 565-2025 of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners 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.

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Commissioners
By: Liz Yongue, Deputy Clerk

cc: File

Kevin Madok, CPA

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

December 30, 2025

Congressman Carlos Gimenez
448 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Representative Gimenez,

Attached is a certified copy of Resolution No. 565-2025 of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners 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.

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Commissioners
By: Liz Yongue, Deputy Clerk

cc: File

Kevin Madok, CPA

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

December 30, 2025

Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez
410 Senate Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

Honorable Senator Rodriguez,

Attached is a certified copy of Resolution No. 565-2025 of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners 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.

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Commissioners
By: Liz Yongue, Deputy Clerk

cc: File

Kevin Madok, CPA

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

December 30, 2025

Representative Jim Mooney
334 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

Honorable Representative Mooney,

Attached is a certified copy of Resolution No. 565-2025 of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners 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.

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Monroe County Board of County
Commissioners
By: Liz Yongue, Deputy Clerk

cc: File

Liz Yongue

From: Liz Yongue
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2025 1:03 PM
To: Clerk@cityofkeywest-fl.gov; cityclerk@ci.marathon.fl.us; Clerk@islamorada.fl.us; cityhall@cityoflayton.com; 'Silvia Roussin'
Cc: Hurley-Christine; Lindsey Ballard; Shillinger-Bob
Subject: Resolution 565-2025; Florida Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing
Attachments: Resolution 565-2025.pdf

Good Afternoon!

Please see the attached Resolution No. 565-2025 of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners 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.

This Resolution was adopted by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners at a regular meeting, held in formal session, on December 10, 2025.

Please distribute this resolution to members of your governing body, City Managers and City Attorneys, and please feel free to contact me at (305) 292-3550 if you have any questions!

Liz Yongue
Deputy Clerk – Executive Assistant to the Clerk, BOCC Operations
Kevin Madok, CPA
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller
500 Whitehead Street, Key West, Florida, 33040
Phone: 305-292-3550
www.monroe-clerk.com

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Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications with any public agency in the course of its official business are public record, and available to the public and media upon request. Your e-mail communication with this office may be subject to public disclosure.