CITY OF OCEAN CITY
CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION

No. 26-02

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 the City of Ocean City, Cape May 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, expanding drilling into the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area, closer to Florida's West Coast, is a dangerous departure from current policy because the Gulf Stream could conceivably bring an oil spill around the Florida Keys and up the US East Coast; and

WHEREAS, the protection of our coastal environment and economy is a priority for the City of Ocean City, Cape May 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 City of Ocean City, County of Cape May, State of New Jersey, that:

1. The City of Ocean City, County of Cape May, 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. The City of Ocean City, County of Cape May, 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. The City of Ocean City, County of Cape May, 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 Doug Burgum Secretary of the Interior, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Senator Michael L. Testa, Jr., Assemblyman Antwan L. McClellan, Assemblyman Erik K. Simonsen, Cape May County League of Municipalities, Cape May County Administrator Kevin Lare and all 16 Municipal Clerk's of Cape May County

Terry Crowley, Jr.,
Council President

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Ocean City, New Jersey at a Council Meeting held on Thursday, January 8, 2026, with the voting record as indicated below.

NAME	MOTION	SECOND	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAINED
Barnes			✓			
Crowley			✓			
Hartzell			✓			
Levchuk			✓			
Madden		✓				
Polcini			✓			
Winslow	✓					

Melissa G. Rasner, City Clerk