

RESOLUTION R-19-101

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING

WHEREAS, the federal government has expressed interest in opening the Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas development and exploration, including risky methods such as seismic airgun blasting; and,

WHEREAS, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean at 200-230 decibels, every 10 seconds, 24 hours a day for week to months on end that could prove harmful or injure and kill dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and,

WHEREAS, the full impact of seismic airgun blasting and offshore drilling are not yet fully understood by scientists, the oil and gas industry, or the federal government; and,

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of an oil spill and leakage; and,

WHEREAS, eventual offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of the coast; and,

WHEREAS, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Florida's Coasts, which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, serve as essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and,

WHEREAS, Manatee County recognizes that the tourism and fishing industries, which depend on a healthy and vibrant coastal environment, both serve as major economic drivers benefiting the current and future residents, property owners, and visitors to Florida; and,

WHEREAS, Manatee County endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and,

WHEREAS, exploration and development of oil and gas resources off the coast of Florida will not effectively address the long-term energy needs of our country; and,

WHEREAS, Manatee County recommends that it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy such as solar and wind, that pose less risk to the coastal environment and economic health before using uncertain methods of seismic airgun blasting for offshore oil and gas deposits.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk; therefore the County Commission expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast.

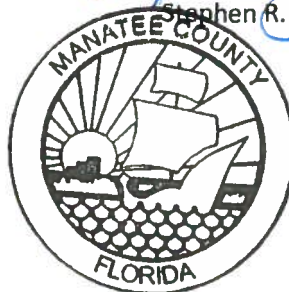
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 

Stephen R. Jonsson, Chairman

ATTEST: Angelina Colonnese
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

By: 



Manatee County Government Administrative Center
Honorable Patricia M. Glass Chambers, First Floor
9:00 a.m. - July 23, 2019

July 23, 2019 - Regular Meeting
Agenda Item #40

Approved in Open Session 7/23/19
Manatee County
Board of County Commissioners

Subject

Resolution R-19-101 Expressing Opposition to Offshore Drilling Activities, including Seismic Airgun Blasting

Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Charlie Hunsicker, Director, Parks and Natural Resources

Action Requested

Adoption of Resolution R-19-101 expressing opposition to offshore drilling activities, including seismic airgun blasting.

Enabling/Regulating Authority

N/A

Background Discussion

This resolution responds to bipartisan requests for local Florida governments to support a ban on oil and gas drilling and production offshore of Florida waters which could pose an added threat from accidental discharge of oil to Florida beaches, our environmental and tourism industry.

This resolution also responds to requests to local governments to support a ban or restriction on offshore oil and gas exploration by means of sonic boom airgun testing, which is harmful to marine mammals like dolphins and whales who use underwater sounds for navigation and communication.

County Attorney Review

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

Explanation of Other

Reviewing Attorney

N/A

Instructions to Board Records

Please provide a signed copy of the resolution to Charlie Hunsicker, Parks and Natural Resources (charlie.hunsicker@mymanatee.org) and to Hinter Miller (hmillier@oceana.org).

Also: D. Bassett, L. Stephens 7/26/19, RT

Cost and Fund Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

N/A

Manatee County Government Administrative Center
Honorable Patricia M. Glass Chambers, First Floor
9:00 a.m. - July 23, 2019

Attachment: [Resolution R-19-101.pdf](#)

CITIZENS' COMMENTS
(Agenda Items)

Consent Agenda

Item #:

40

CONSENT:

NO

YES

The Board of County Commissioners welcomes your comments. Your presentation must be limited to three (3) minutes per item or matter, with a total limit of ten (10) minutes. If appropriate, the matter(s) you present will be placed on a future commission agenda.

It is requested that you complete this form and return it to the receptionist prior to the beginning of the Citizens' Comments portion of the agenda.

Name:

Hunter Miller

Address:

5347 10th St N

Phone: (Home)

863-528-6011

(Work)

Email:

hmiller@oceana.org

Brief description of problem or concern:

Support of Resolution to protect our
coast from offshore drilling