

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018 - 09**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING AN EXTENSION  
OF THE CURRENT MORATORIUM ON OFFSHORE DRILLING IN  
THE EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO.**

WHEREAS, in 2006, Congress formally banned drilling within 125 miles of the Florida coast; and

WHEREAS, absent a bi-partisan effort in Washington D.C. to continue this protection of Florida's beaches, ecosystems, and economy, this moratorium will sunset in 2022; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling and related activities, including seismic testing to evaluate conditions for oil exploration, have no place in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. The industrial infrastructure needed to support offshore drilling, and ultimately offshore production of oil and gas, is wholly incompatible with existing tourist-centric development and would undermine Florida's coastal ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense fully supports extending the moratorium on offshore drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico to protect our numerous military bases in the panhandle and around Tampa to the Naval Air Station Key West; and

WHEREAS, lifting the moratorium would threaten Collier County's status as a premier tourist destination and undermine its significant investments in conservations lands.


**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA,** that it supports an extension of the current moratorium on offshore drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House, United States House of Representatives.

**THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED** after motion, second, and majority vote favoring  
same this 9th day of January, 2018.

ATTEST:  
DWIGHT E. BROCK, CLERK

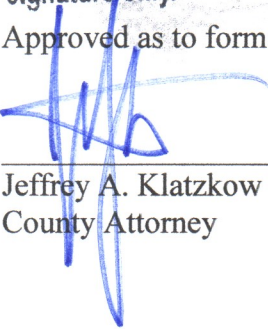
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA

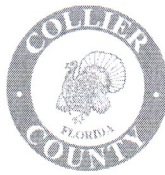
By:  , Deputy Clerk

Attest as to Chairman's  
signature only.

By:  , CHAIRMAN

Approved as to form and legality:

  
Jeffrey A. Klatzkow  
County Attorney



## Board of Collier County Commissioners

Donna Fiala  
District 1

Andy Solis, Esq.  
District 2

Burt L. Saunders  
District 3

Penny Taylor  
District 4

William L. McDaniel, Jr.  
District 5

January 10, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker - United States House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Ryan:

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners and the citizens of Collier County, Florida, I present to you a resolution unanimously adopted by the Board at their January 9, 2018, meeting: *Supporting an Extension of the Current Moratorium on Offshore Drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.*

As you well know, Florida's coastlines are a major economic driver for the State. Our pristine Gulf beaches and inviting waters of Collier County attract tourists from all over the world. As recently as 2006, Congress recognized the importance of our waters by formally banning drilling within 125 miles of the Florida coast. Expansion of offshore drilling would be an affront to the efforts we have made over the past decades in protecting our fragile ecosystems and maintaining clean and accessible beaches for both residents and tourists.

As of the adoption of this resolution, the Florida Congressional Delegation has voiced widespread, bipartisan opposition to the Department of the Interior's proposed five-year outer continental shelf plan that would put up for auction the right to drill in areas that include the Gulf of Mexico. Our delegation, led by Congressman Francis Rooney, seeks to extend the moratorium to prevent our Collier County coastline from damage akin to the 2010 BP Gulf of Mexico oil spill. A future, similar accident would devastate our shallow waters, destroy ecosystems, harm fish and marine mammal populations, and cripple our tourist-based economy.

We hope you will consider our plight and support Congressman Rooney's efforts to protect our ecology and economy.

Respectfully,

Andy Solis,  
Chairman  
District 2 Commissioner

Penny Taylor,  
District 4 Commissioner

Cc: The Honorable Francis Rooney