

NEW HANOVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO OFF-SHORE DRILLING

WHEREAS, the federal government is examining its policies relative to seismic testing, and potential offshore drilling, in the Atlantic Ocean and off the coast of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of seismic testing and off shore drilling, if any, to New Hanover County, the surrounding region, or the State of North Carolina, are substantially outweighed by the unacceptable risks of harm to marine life, the coastline environment, property, business, our livelihood, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, New Hanover County has visitors from all over the world come to enjoy the natural beauty of our clean beaches, salt and freshwater marshes, inlets, estuaries and tributaries. The potential damage to North Carolina's beaches and coastline, should a spill occur, would be devastating to our natural resources and irrevocably harm New Hanover County's tourism-based economy; and

WHEREAS, exploring and drilling for oil poses unacceptable risks of potential harm to the basic economy of New Hanover County and the livelihood of many who sustain themselves working clean, healthy waters in the region; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that local and state officials throughout North Carolina and its neighboring states take a unified stand in opposition to off-shore drilling because a mishap in one jurisdiction could negatively impact the coastal environment and economy of adjacent areas; and

WHEREAS, other coastal communities and their neighbors have suffered dreadful consequences as the result of off-shore energy exploration including the Prince William Sound, victimized by the Exxon Valdez, and countless Gulf Coast communities harmed by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has a long history of hurricanes, and deep water drilling off our state's coast would increase the chances of platform failures and oil spills due to the vulnerability of the coastal waters to severe weather. The documented dangers that are associated with off-shore drilling would needlessly put our environment, coastline, beaches, fishing, and tourism industry at risk and threaten our way of life in New Hanover County, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, New Hanover County recognizes our economic survival depends on the sustainability of the existing environment and protecting our investments made over a fifty-year period in coastal storm damage reduction.

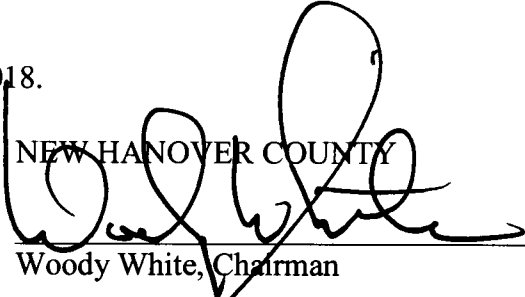
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners expresses its opposition to off-shore drilling and urges the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, the United States Congress, the Governor of the State of North Carolina, and the North Carolina General Assembly to oppose off-shore petroleum policies that risk the health, safety and sound environmental stewardship of North Carolina's coastline; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that New Hanover County is in opposition to seismic testing and is opposed to the exploration and development of oil/gas resources on the continental shelf or elsewhere off the coast of North Carolina.

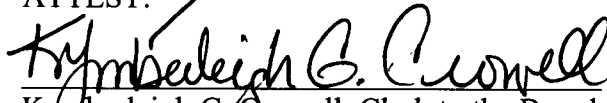
ADOPTED this the 22nd day of January, 2018.



NEW HANOVER COUNTY


Woody White, Chairman

ATTEST:


Kimberleigh G. Crowell, Clerk to the Board