



Town of Southern Shores

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Resolution 2018-02-01

A Resolution in Opposition of the Proposed "2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program" Released January 4, 2018 by the U.S. Department of Energy's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Energy's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), as directed in Executive Order 13795 (April 28, 2017) and Secretary's Order 3350 (May 1, 2017), did on January 4, 2018 release a Draft Proposed Program (DPP) designated as "*2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program*" in accordance with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act; and

WHEREAS, the January 4, 2018 DPP establishes a 5-year schedule of oil and gas lease sales for use of lands of the outer continental shelf, including lands directly offshore and adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean coastline of the State of North Carolina, Dare County, and the Town of Southern Shores, for the purposes of offshore testing, exploration, and eventual mining of oil and gas; and

WHEREAS, like the State of Florida, the State of North Carolina's coastal communities, including Dare County and the Town of Southern Shores, rely heavily on the tourism industry and all its related industries, for the livelihood and well-being of its citizens and property owners; and

WHEREAS, the conservation and preservation of the unique ecological, geological, geographic, and prominent historic features of North Carolina's Atlantic Ocean coastline, including the U.S.'s own National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National Marine Sanctuaries, and National Forests located there, are paramount to the sustainment and protection of the tourism industry vital to the economy of North Carolina's coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the risk and negative effect to North Carolina's tourism industry and the environment due to adverse testing, exploration, and mining, including mishap, on the outer continental shelf of the Atlantic Ocean, far outweigh any developmental benefits of leasing the lands for the proposed uses; and


WHEREAS, like the State of Florida, North Carolina's loss of clean water and pristine beaches along its ocean coastline could devastate its tourism industry, and all related industries, that sustain the economy of its coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, only a single public meeting on the proposed DPP has been scheduled in North Carolina by the BOEM to receive public input on the DPP - that public meeting being scheduled on February 26, 2018 in Raleigh, NC, a current vehicle driving time of as much as 3-4 hours for some coastal North Carolina residents who desire to attend and be heard;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Southern Shores Town Council, being the governing body of the Town of Southern Shores, Dare County, State of North Carolina, does:

- (1) Hereby record its opposition to the leasing of any lands of the Atlantic Ocean continental shelf for oil and gas testing, exploration, or mining; and
- (2) Hereby request the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior to - like he has done for the State of Florida - recognize the risk to North Carolina's extensive coastal tourism industry and exempt North Carolina and it's off-shore outer continental shelf from the DPP; and
- (3) Hereby request the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior to schedule additional Public Meetings on the DPP in coastal communities thereby allowing coastal residents more convenient opportunity to attend and be heard; and
- (4) Hereby request the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior to extend the DPP comment period for another sixty (60) days following the current March 9, 2018 public comment deadline.

RESOLVED this the 6th day of February 2018 by the Town Council of the Town of Southern Shores.


Tom Bennett, Mayor

Attest: 
Town Clerk

