

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH
OF MONMOUTH BEACH OPPOSING
OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS
ACTIVITIES**

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2018, the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced in the Federal Register notice the release of their Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the 2019-2024 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. BOEM is requesting public comment on the DPP as well as formal scoping for a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the 2019-2024 Program; and

WHEREAS, this new plan includes the entire Atlantic Ocean from Maine to Florida, **including the waters off New Jersey within 3 miles of beaches**, as well as including other ocean areas totaling some 90% of US ocean waters; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey boasts over 127 miles of beautiful ocean coastline and hundreds of miles of back-bays, estuaries, and other waterways connected to the Atlantic Ocean; and

WHEREAS, the Jersey Shore is essential to the health of the our communities, environment and the thriving economy of New Jersey and Monmouth Beach; and

WHEREAS, the Jersey Shore's \$20 billion economy sustains the economy of the State with its bounty of natural resources and intrinsic values for millions of people through tourism. Tourism brings more than \$44.1 billion to NJ's economy each year and provides jobs to more than 500,000 people; and

WHEREAS, recreational and commercial fisheries in NJ provide enormous economic benefits, including revenue, food production, and recreational activities. In 2014, recreational fishing supported nearly 20,000 jobs and resulted in \$2 billion of retail sales. Commercial fishing supports nearly 7,300 jobs and provides \$152 million in landings, not including restaurant and retail sales; and

WHEREAS, the harmful environmental consequences of offshore oil and gas exploration and development are serious and threaten the environmental and economic assets of New Jersey including Monmouth Beach; and

WHEREAS, The BP Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico (2010) is clear evidence of the dangers associated with offshore drilling, including costing the lives of 11 people, devastating coastal economies and countless livelihoods, and killing countless marine animals, as well as continuing to cause harm to marine life as documented by a steady flow of studies; and

WHEREAS, oil spills travel vast distances, and the Gulf Stream and Labrador Ocean Current all flow toward New Jersey making the region vulnerable to impacts from spills anywhere in the Atlantic Ocean; and

WHEREAS, Department of Interior Secretary Zinke removed Florida from further consideration for drilling due to the importance of coastal tourism to that state and NJ shares this same economic dependence on tourism and clean ocean economies; and

WHEREAS, bi-partisan opposition against drilling off the New Jersey coast has included every Governor since 1985, and a majority of the congressional delegation and most coastal towns; and

WHEREAS, in the January 8, 2018, BOEM Federal Register requests comments on the Draft Proposed Program (DPP) and scoping comments for the Programmatic Environmental Impact (PEI) Study; and

WHEREAS, coastal municipalities like Monmouth beach have a profound interest in maintaining strong federal protections for our nation's coastal environment, as well as the economic and social benefits it supports;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Commissioners of the Borough of Monmouth Beach hereby oppose offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling activities that would affect the coast of New Jersey and calls upon **Secretary of the Interior Ryan K. Zinke**, who oversees the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, to withdraw New Jersey and the entire Atlantic Ocean from consideration for offshore oil and gas exploration, development, or drilling.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and accurate copy of a Resolution adopted by the Mayor and Commissioners of the Borough of Monmouth Beach at their regularly scheduled meeting of February 27, 2018.



Joyce L. Escalante, RMC
Municipal Clerk