



## Resolution R18-354

Introduced By: Town Council

Date: March 15, 2018

### **A Resolution to Express Opposition to Offshore Oil Drilling and Exploration Activities, Including Seismic Airgun Blasting**

**WHEREAS**, the United States government has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean 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 every 10-12 seconds for days, weeks, or months on end; and,

**WHEREAS**, seismic airgun noise has been shown to harm and injure dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and,

**WHEREAS**, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of an oil spills and chronic 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 Brunswick County Coast, which is of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, provide essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and,

**WHEREAS**, the town of Leland 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 Brunswick County, North Carolina; and,

**WHEREAS**, the town of Leland 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 North Carolina will not effectively address the long-term energy needs of our country; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Leland 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.

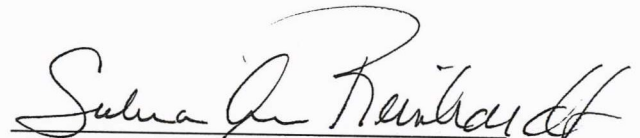
**Therefore, Be It Resolved:** by the Town of Leland that:

Offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, will put North Carolina's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk; therefore, the Council expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off North Carolina's coast.

The Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Governor Roy Cooper, U. S. Senators Tom Tillis and Richard Burr; U. S. Representative David Rouzer; State Senator Bill Rabon; State Representative Frank Iler; U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke; U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross; The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners and any other interested parties.

Adopted by Town Council on this 15 day of March, 2018.

  
Brenda Bozeman, Mayor

  
Sabrena Reinhardt, Town Clerk

