

William A. Prokop  
CITY MANAGER  
843-525-7070  
FAX 843-525-7013



**CITY OF BEAUFORT**  
1911 Boundary Street  
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29902

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Billy Kayserling, Mayor  
Mike McFee, Mayor Pro Tem  
George O' Kelley  
Philip Cromer  
Stephen Murray

May 30, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President,  
United State of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Obama:

We, the undersigned mayors, write to express our grave concerns about several pending federal permits that would allow seismic testing for oil and gas to move forward along a vast swath of the Atlantic coast. We ask that the Administration deny all pending permits for seismic testing in the Atlantic OCS for the reasons outlined below.

Twenty-three (23) resolutions have now been adopted by municipalities and counties in South Carolina expressing opposition to offshore oil and gas activities, including seismic testing. These communities span the entire South Carolina coast, from Hilton Head to Beaufort to Charleston to Georgetown to Myrtle Beach, and encompass all three of South Carolina's fastest growing metro areas. Over one hundred (100) resolutions have been adopted by communities along the Atlantic coast to express concerns about the impact these activities would have on tourism, fisheries, the environment, and the quality of life for coastal residents.

Proposed seismic testing, which has raised extensive concerns about wildlife impacts from a large contingency of leading marine scientists and research institutions, ultimately paves the way for future oil and gas development. Oil and gas development creates the risk of a major oil spill off of our coast while encouraging industrial activities that are inconsistent with the character of our coastal communities. These tests would also produce proprietary data that will not be shared with the public or the states.

Our state's fisheries and ocean based tourism and recreation support nearly 79,000 jobs and generate over \$7 billion in economic activity each year in South Carolina. Moving forward with seismic testing and offshore drilling would mean the industrialization of our state's coastline with oil and gas infrastructure, create use-conflicts in the waters along our coast, and place us at risk of a catastrophic disaster like the BP oil spill of 2010.

William A. Prokop  
CITY MANAGER  
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**CITY OF BEAUFORT**  
1911 Boundary Street  
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29902

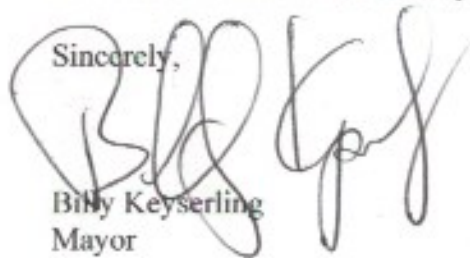
COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Billy Keyserling, Mayor  
Mike McFos, Mayor Pro Tem  
George O' Kelley  
Philip Cromer  
Stephen Murray

Ultimately, offshore drilling and seismic testing represent clear conflicts for the existing economic and environmental advantages enjoyed by our coastal communities.

We applaud your Administration's recent decision to remove the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) from the 2017-2022 Proposed Leasing Program. Your responsiveness to the widespread opposition to oil and gas development from coastal communities, local governments, and businesses reflects the highest ideals of our nation's democratic principle of government.

Rather than continuing to move forward with the federal permitting process that would result in seismic testing and potentially future drilling off the coast of South Carolina, we ask that you take immediate action to eliminate this threat that twenty-three communities in South Carolina have officially spoken out against.

Sincerely,

  
Billy Keyserling  
Mayor





## City of Charleston

JOHN J. TECKLENBURG  
MAYOR

June 3, 2016

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to applaud your Administration's recent decision to remove the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) from the 2017-2022 Proposed Leasing Program. Charleston is one of twenty-three local municipalities and counties who are opposed to drilling off South Carolina's shores. Simply put it is just not worth the risk and we thank you for recognizing this fact. Your responsiveness to the widespread opposition to oil and gas development from coastal communities, local governments, and businesses reflects the highest ideals of our nation's democratic principle of government.

I also write to express the Charleston community's grave concerns about several pending federal permits that would allow seismic testing for oil and gas to move forward along a vast swath of the Atlantic coast off South Carolina's shores. I join other mayors and administrators in South Carolina in respectfully asking that the Department of Interior deny all pending permits for seismic testing in the Atlantic OCS for the reasons outlined below.

Twenty-three (23) resolutions have now been adopted by municipalities and counties in South Carolina expressing opposition to offshore oil and gas activities, including seismic testing. These communities span the entire South Carolina coast, from Hilton Head to Beaufort to Charleston to Georgetown to Myrtle Beach, and encompass the three fastest growing metropolitan areas from 2014 to 2015 along the Atlantic Coast. Over one hundred (100) resolutions have been adopted by communities along the Atlantic coast to express concerns about the impact these activities would have on tourism, fisheries, the environment, and the quality of life for coastal residents.

Proposed seismic testing has raised extensive concerns about wildlife impacts from a large contingency of leading marine scientists and research institutions. Seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean. These dynamite-like

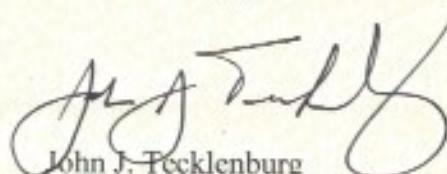


blasts can occur as frequently as every ten seconds, for days to weeks at a time and are loud enough to harm marine life. Almost all marine life in the ocean depends on sound for communication, social interactions, spawning, territoriality, homing, predator avoidance and prey location. Both behavioral and physical impacts on fish, invertebrates and marine mammals by seismic operations have been well documented in the literature, although the full impacts of seismic testing are not yet fully understood at the population or ecosystem impact level. Lower-impact alternative technologies for assessing oil and gas reserves are being developed and almost certainly will be available for exploration in the near future. Furthermore, seismic tests results will only produce proprietary data that will not be shared with the public or the states.

So why support seismic testing and the associated risks at this time when oil and gas drilling is not allowed? Ultimately this proprietary seismic data may pave the way for future oil and gas development. Please note that a consensus of local geologists believes there is not much oil and gas resource to be found off our coast other than possibly methane hydrates that are dangerous and difficult to recover. Oil and gas development creates the risk of a major oil spill off of our coast while encouraging industrial activities that are inconsistent with the character of our coastal communities. Our state's fisheries and ocean based tourism and recreation support nearly 79,000 jobs and generate over \$7 billion in economic activity each year in South Carolina. Moving forward with seismic testing and the ensuing renewal of potential for offshore drilling would mean the industrialization of our state's coastline with oil and gas infrastructure, create use-conflicts in the waters along our coast, and place us at risk of a catastrophic disaster like the BP oil spill of 2010. Ultimately, offshore drilling and seismic testing represent clear conflicts for the existing economic and environmental advantages enjoyed by our coastal communities and with the Charleston brand.

Charleston's question is, with off shore drilling banned, why accept the risk of seismic testing? Rather than continuing to move forward with the federal permitting process that would result in seismic testing and potentially future drilling off the coast of South Carolina, we ask that you take immediate action to eliminate this threat that twenty-three communities in South Carolina have officially spoken out against.

Most sincerely yours,



John J. Pecklenburg  
Mayor, City of Charleston



Linda Page  
Mayor

June 15, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President,  
United State of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Obama,

We, the undersigned mayors, write to express our grave concerns about several pending federal permits that would allow seismic testing for oil and gas to move forward along a vast swath of the Atlantic coast. We ask that the Administration deny all pending permits for seismic testing in the Atlantic OCS for the reasons outlined below.

Twenty-three (23) resolutions have now been adopted by municipalities and counties in South Carolina expressing opposition to offshore oil and gas activities, including seismic testing. These communities span the entire South Carolina coast, from Hilton Head to Beaufort to Charleston to Georgetown to Myrtle Beach, and encompass all three of South Carolina's fastest growing metro areas. Over one hundred (100) resolutions have been adopted by communities along the Atlantic coast to express concerns about the impact these activities would have on tourism, fisheries, the environment, and the quality of life for coastal residents.

Proposed seismic testing, which has raised extensive concerns about wildlife impacts from a large contingency of leading marine scientists and research institutions, ultimately paves the way for future oil and gas development. Oil and gas development creates the risk of a major oil spill off of our coast while encouraging industrial activities that are inconsistent with the character of our coastal communities. These tests would also produce proprietary data that will not be shared with the public or the states.



Our state's fisheries and ocean based tourism and recreation support nearly 79,000 jobs and generate over \$7 billion in economic activity each year in South Carolina. Moving forward with seismic testing and offshore drilling would mean the industrialization of our state's coastline with oil and gas infrastructure, create use-conflicts in the waters along our coast, and place us at risk of a catastrophic disaster like the BP oil spill of 2010. Ultimately, offshore drilling and seismic testing represent clear conflicts for the existing economic and environmental advantages enjoyed by our coastal communities.

We applaud your Administration's recent decision to remove the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) from the 2017-2022 Proposed Leasing Program. Your responsiveness to the widespread opposition to oil and gas development from coastal communities, local governments, and businesses reflects the highest ideals of our nation's democratic principle of government.

Rather than continuing to move forward with the federal permitting process that would result in seismic testing and potentially future drilling off the coast of South Carolina, we ask that you take immediate action to eliminate this threat that twenty-three communities in South Carolina have officially spoken out against.

Sincerely,



Linda Page  
Mayor

TOWN OF MOUNT PLEASANT

# TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND

One Town Center Court, Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29928

(843) 341-4600 Fax (843) 842-7728

[www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov](http://www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov)

David Bennett  
Mayor

William D. Harkins  
Mayor ProTem

## Council Members

David Ames  
Marc A. Grant  
Thomas W. Lennox  
Kim W. Lickins  
John J. McCann

Stephen G. Riley  
Town Manager

June 13, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President, United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20050

Dear President Obama,

Earlier this year at a public meeting, our Hilton Head Island Town Council voted unanimously to oppose seismic testing because of the dangers it represents for both our coastal environment and economic welfare.

Our vote reflected an overwhelming response from our community's residents that such testing is totally at odds with our legacy of environmental stewardship. Moreover, it underscores our commitment to both current and future generations that we are adamant in our stance to protect against any and all threats to marine and aquatic wildlife that inhabit our shores.

As a coastal community that relies heavily on tourism, the Town of Hilton Head Island is greatly concerned with the potential threat that surrounds any type of preliminary air gun seismic surveying because of the dangers that have been well documented. It is important to note that these types of surveys for oil and gas are far different and more dangerous to marine life than the ones currently being conducted for offshore wind projects.

We applaud your Administration's recent decision to remove the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf from the 2017-2022 Proposed Leasing Program. Your responsiveness to the widespread opposition to oil and gas development from numerous coastal communities like ours, as well as local governments and businesses, reflects your understanding of our concerns and circumstances.

Ultimately offshore drilling and seismic testing represent clear conflicts for the existing economic and environmental welfare currently enjoyed by hundreds of Atlantic coastal communities in several states. Nearly 80,000 jobs and more than \$7 billion in economic activity are supported by fisheries and ocean based tourism and recreation in South Carolina alone. As a Town we stand firmly with

The Honorable Barack Obama  
Page 2  
June 13, 2016

our fellow South Carolina communities in asking that you take immediate action to eliminate this threat rather than allowing a continuance of the federal permitting process that would result in seismic testing and potentially future drilling off our South Carolina coast.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David M. Bennett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Bennett" clearly legible.

David Bennett  
Mayor

cc: Town Council  
Stephen G. Riley, ICMA-CM, Town Manager  
Mayor Billy Keyserling, City of Beaufort



**Council**

Samuel E. Murray  
Mayor

Tom Klein  
Mayor Pro Tempore

Jerry Ashmore  
Vernon DeLoach  
Mary Beth Heyward  
June 9, 2016



Van Willis  
Town Manager

T. Alan Beach  
Chief of Police

Jeffrey S. Coppinger  
Operations

Linda Bridges  
Planning

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President,  
United State of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Obama,

As Mayor of the Town of Port Royal, I am writing to express our grave concerns about several pending federal permits that would allow seismic testing for oil and gas to move forward along a vast swath of the Atlantic coast. We ask that the Administration deny all pending permits for seismic testing in the Atlantic OCS for the reasons outlined below.

Twenty-three (23) resolutions have now been adopted by municipalities and counties in South Carolina expressing opposition to offshore oil and gas activities, including seismic testing. These communities span the entire South Carolina coast, from Hilton Head to Beaufort to Charleston to Georgetown to Myrtle Beach, and encompass all three of South Carolina's fastest growing metro areas. Over one hundred (100) resolutions have been adopted by communities along the Atlantic coast to express concerns about the impact these activities would have on tourism, fisheries, the environment, and the quality of life for coastal residents.

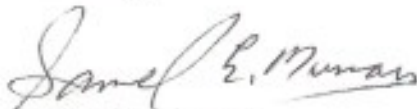
Proposed seismic testing, which has raised extensive concerns about wildlife impacts from a large contingency of leading marine scientists and research institutions, ultimately paves the way for future oil and gas development. Oil and gas development creates the risk of a major oil spill off of our coast while encouraging industrial activities that are inconsistent with the character of our coastal communities. These tests would also produce proprietary data that will not be shared with the public or the states.

Our state's fisheries and ocean based tourism and recreation support nearly 79,000 jobs and generate over \$7 billion in economic activity each year in South Carolina. Moving forward with seismic testing and offshore drilling would mean the industrialization of our state's coastline with oil and gas infrastructure, create use-conflicts in the waters along our coast, and place us at risk of a catastrophic disaster like the BP oil spill of 2010. Ultimately, offshore drilling and seismic testing represent clear conflicts for the existing economic and environmental advantages enjoyed by our coastal communities.

We applaud your Administration's recent decision to remove the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) from the 2017-2022 Proposed Leasing Program. Your responsiveness to the widespread opposition to oil and gas development from coastal communities, local governments, and businesses reflects the highest ideals of our nation's democratic principle of government.

Rather than continuing to move forward with the federal permitting process that would result in seismic testing and potentially future drilling off the coast of South Carolina, we ask that you take immediate action to eliminate this threat that twenty-three communities in South Carolina have officially spoken out against.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Samuel E. Murray".

Samuel E. Murray  
Mayor



Robert F. "Bob" Childs, III

Administrator  
Micki Fellner

Town Clerk  
Debra E. Herrmann, CMC



**Town of Surfside Beach**  
*"The Family Beach"*

Mayor Pro Tem  
Ron Ott

Town Council  
Timothy T. Courtney  
Mark L. Johnson  
David L. Pellegrino  
Randle M. Stevens

June 14, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama, President  
United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20006

Dear President Obama:

We, the undersigned members of the Town of Surfside Beach Town Council, write to express our grave concerns about several pending federal permits that would allow seismic testing for oil and gas to move forward along a vast swath of the Atlantic coast. We ask that the Administration deny all pending permits for seismic testing in the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf for the reasons outlined below.

Twenty-three (23) resolutions have now been adopted by municipalities and counties in South Carolina, including the Town's own Resolution #15-159, a copy of which is enclosed, expressing opposition to offshore oil and gas activities, including seismic testing. These communities span the entire South Carolina coast, from Hilton Head to Beaufort to Charleston to Georgetown to Myrtle Beach, and encompass all three of South Carolina's fastest growing metro areas. Over one hundred (100) resolutions have been adopted by communities along the Atlantic coast to express concerns about the impact these activities would have on tourism, fisheries, the environment, and the quality of life for coastal residents.

Proposed seismic testing, which has raised extensive concerns about wildlife impacts from a large contingency of leading marine scientists and research institutions, ultimately paves the way for future oil and gas development. Oil and gas development creates the risk of a major oil spill off of our coast, while encouraging industrial activities that are inconsistent with the character of our coastal communities. These tests would also produce proprietary data that will not be shared with the public or the states.

Our state's fisheries and ocean based tourism and recreation support nearly 79,000 jobs and generate over \$7 billion in economic activity each year in South Carolina. Moving forward with seismic testing and offshore drilling would mean the industrialization of our state's coastline with oil and gas infrastructure, create use-conflicts in the waters along our coast, and place us at risk of a catastrophic disaster

*Dedicated people providing quality and responsive service to our community.*

115 US Highway 17 North – Surfside Beach, SC 29575-6034

[www.surfsidebeach.org](http://www.surfsidebeach.org) – [town@surfsidebeach.org](mailto:town@surfsidebeach.org)

843 913 6111 phone – 843 238-5432 fax

like the BP oil spill of 2010. Ultimately, offshore drilling and seismic testing represent clear conflicts for the existing economic and environmental advantages enjoyed by our coastal communities.

We applaud your Administration's recent decision to remove the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf from the 2017-2022 Proposed Leasing Program. Your responsiveness to the widespread opposition to oil and gas development from coastal communities, local governments, and businesses reflects the highest ideals of our nation's democratic principle of government.

Rather than continuing to move forward with the federal permitting process that would result in seismic testing and potentially future drilling off the coast of South Carolina, we ask that you take immediate action to eliminate this threat that twenty-three communities in South Carolina have officially spoken out against.

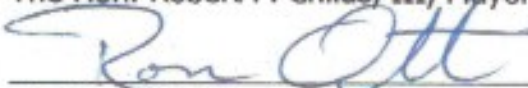
With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

**TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH**



The Hon. Robert F. Childs, III, Mayor



The Hon. Ron Ott, Mayor Pro Tempore



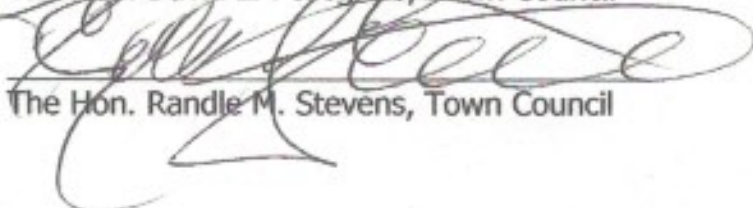
The Hon. Timothy T. Courtney, Town Council



The Hon. Mark L. Johnson, Town Council



The Hon. David L. Pellegrino, Town Council



The Hon. Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

dh

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*Dedicated people providing quality and responsive service to our community.*

115 US Highway 17 North, Surfside Beach, SC 29575-6034 • [www.surfsidebeach.org](http://www.surfsidebeach.org)  
Telephone 843.913.6111 • Facsimile 843.238.5432 • Email [town@surfsidebeach.org](mailto:town@surfsidebeach.org)





State of South Carolina )  
County of Horry )  
Town of Surfside Beach )

*Resolution #15-159*

***To Oppose Seismic Testing & Offshore Drilling Activities***

**WHEREAS**, this matter comes before the Council of the Town of Surfside Beach at a regularly scheduled meeting held the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is currently in the process of trying to open the mid- and south-Atlantic planning areas to exploration and development of offshore oil and gas including risky methods, such as seismic blasting; and

**WHEREAS**, seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean. These dynamite-like blasts can occur as frequently as every ten seconds for days to weeks at a time, and are loud enough to harm marine and aquatic life; and

**WHEREAS**, the full impacts of seismic testing and offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean are not yet fully understood by scientists, the oil and gas industry, BOEM or the Federal Government, and lower-impact alternative technologies may be available for exploration in the near future; and

**WHEREAS**, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of a spill; and

**WHEREAS**, eventual offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which may harm the character of our coast; and

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling activities pose threats for the coastal wetland areas of the Town of Surfside Beach, which are of intrinsic ecological value for numerous migratory bird species, serve as essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Surfside Beach is a South Carolina municipality wherein a major economic force is tourism related to the appreciation of our natural coastal and historical environment, which are also the primary factors contributing to the high quality of life the Town's residents enjoy, enabling successful businesses, recruitment and attracting new residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Surfside Beach endeavors to be a good steward of its coastal environment and its resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Surfside Beach Town Council believes that more research should be done to fully understand and to better address the impacts of seismic testing, and the options for mitigating those impacts before exploration begins, including incorporation of the National Marine Fisheries Service's soon-to-be-released acoustic guidance document; and,

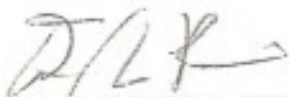
**WHEREAS**, the exploration and development of oil and natural gas in the mid- and south-Atlantic planning areas will not effectively or fully address the long-term energy needs of our country; and

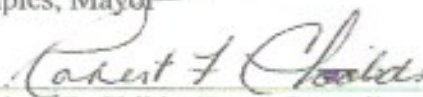
WHEREAS, the Town believes that it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy through solar, wind, and biomass energy production projects that pose less risk to its coastal environment and economic health before using uncertain methods of seismic blasting for offshore oil and gas exploration.

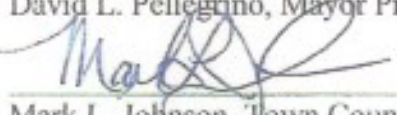
NOW, THEREFORE, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Surfside Beach Town Council does hereby submit its opposition to seismic testing and offshore oil and gas development off the coast of South Carolina.

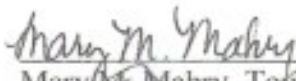
**BE IT SO RESOLVED**, this 22nd day of September 2015.

  
Douglas F. Samples, Mayor

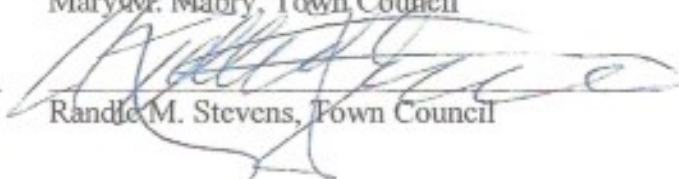
  
David L. Pellegrino, Mayor Pro Tempore

  
Robert F. Childs, Town Council


  
Mark L. Johnson, Town Council

  
Mary M. Mabry, Town Council

  
Ralph J. Magliette, Town Council

  
Randle M. Stevens, Town Council

Attest:

  
Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk



MAYOR  
JACK M. SCOVILLE, JR.  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR  
CHRIS CARTER  
CITY CLERK  
ANN U. MERCER



COUNCIL MEMBERS  
BRENDON M. BARBER, SR.  
SHELDON A. BUTTS  
CAROL R. JAYROE  
AL JOSEPH  
EDWARD S. KIMBROUGH  
CLARENCE C. SMALLS

Executive Offices  
(843) 545-4001

June 13, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President  
United State of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Obama:

As Mayor of the City of Georgetown I am writing to express my grave concerns about several pending federal permits that would allow seismic testing for oil and gas to move forward along a vast swath of the Atlantic coast. I ask that the Administration deny all pending permits for seismic testing in the Atlantic OCS for the reasons outlined below.

Twenty-three (23) resolutions have now been adopted by municipalities and counties in South Carolina expressing opposition to offshore oil and gas activities, including seismic testing. These communities span the entire South Carolina coast, from Hilton Head to Beaufort to Charleston to Georgetown to Myrtle Beach, and encompass all three of South Carolina's fastest growing metro areas. Over one hundred (100) resolutions have been adopted by communities along the Atlantic coast to express concerns about the impact these activities would have on tourism, fisheries, the environment, and the quality of life for coastal residents.

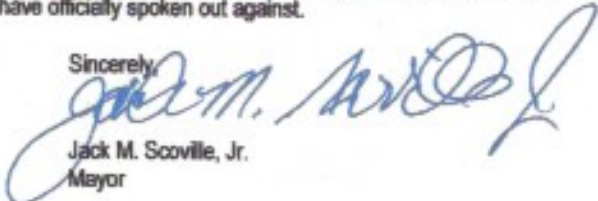
Proposed seismic testing, which has raised extensive concerns about wildlife impacts from a large contingency of leading marine scientists and research institutions, ultimately paves the way for future oil and gas development. Oil and gas development creates the risk of a major oil spill off of our coast while encouraging industrial activities that are inconsistent with the character of our coastal communities. These tests would also produce proprietary data that will not be shared with the public or the states.

Our state's fisheries and ocean based tourism and recreation support nearly 79,000 jobs and generate over \$7 billion in economic activity each year in South Carolina. Moving forward with seismic testing and offshore drilling would mean the industrialization of our state's coastline with oil and gas infrastructure, create use-conflicts in the waters along our coast, and place us at risk of a catastrophic disaster like the BP oil spill of 2010. Ultimately, offshore drilling and seismic testing represent clear conflicts for the existing economic and environmental advantages enjoyed by our coastal communities.

I applaud your Administration's recent decision to remove the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) from the 2017-2022 Proposed Leasing Program. Your responsiveness to the widespread opposition to oil and gas development from coastal communities, local governments, and businesses reflects the highest ideals of our nation's democratic principle of government.

Rather than continuing to move forward with the federal permitting process that would result in seismic testing and potentially future drilling off the coast of South Carolina, I ask that you take immediate action to eliminate this threat that twenty-three communities in South Carolina have officially spoken out against.

Sincerely,

  
Jack M. Scoville, Jr.  
Mayor

Drawer 939  
Georgetown, SC 29442



# TOWN OF SEABROOK ISLAND

2001 Seabrook Island Road • Seabrook Island, SC 29455  
Phone: (843) 768-9121 • Fax: (843) 768-9830

**Mayor:**  
Ronald J. Ciancio  
**Municipal Judge:**  
Dennis E. O'Neill, Esq.  
**Council:**  
Harold Crane  
John W. Gregg  
John Turner  
John B. Wells  
**Town Administrator:**  
Randy M. Pierce  
**Clerk:**  
Faye Albritton  
**Administrative Assistant:**  
Lynda Whitworth

June 8, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President, United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Obama:

I am writing to express my support of the Mayors of other coastal South Carolina communities who have written express their grave concerns about several pending federal permits that would allow seismic testing for oil and gas to move forward along a vast swath of the Atlantic coast. I join them in asking that the Administration deny all pending permits for seismic testing in the Atlantic OCS for the reasons outlined below.

Twenty-three (23) resolutions have now been adopted by municipalities and counties in South Carolina expressing opposition to offshore oil and gas activities, including seismic testing. These communities span the entire South Carolina coast, from Hilton Head to Beaufort to Charleston to Georgetown to Myrtle Beach, and encompass all three of South Carolina's fastest growing metro areas. Over one hundred (100) resolutions have been adopted by communities along the Atlantic coast to express concerns about the impact these activities would have on tourism, fisheries, the environment, and the quality of life for coastal residents.

Proposed seismic testing, which has raised extensive concerns about wildlife impacts from a large contingency of leading marine scientists and research institutions, ultimately paves the way for future oil and gas development. Oil and gas development creates the risk of a major oil spill off of our coast while encouraging industrial activities that are inconsistent with the character of our coastal communities. These tests would also produce proprietary data that will not be shared with the public or the states.

Our state's fisheries and ocean based tourism and recreation support nearly 79,000 jobs and generate over \$7 billion in economic activity each year in South Carolina. Moving forward with seismic testing and offshore drilling would mean the industrialization of our state's coastline

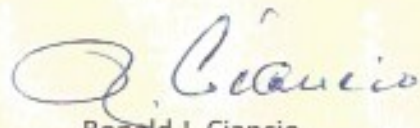


with oil and gas infrastructure, create use-conflicts in the waters along our coast, and place us at risk of a catastrophic disaster like the BP oil spill of 2010. Ultimately, offshore drilling and seismic testing represent clear conflicts for the existing economic and environmental advantages enjoyed by our coastal communities.

We applaud your Administration's recent decision to remove the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) from the 2017-2022 Proposed Leasing Program. Your responsiveness to the widespread opposition to oil and gas development from coastal communities, local governments, and businesses reflects the highest ideals of our nation's democratic principle of government.

Rather than continuing to move forward with the federal permitting process that would result in seismic testing and potentially future drilling off the coast of South Carolina, we ask that you take immediate action to eliminate this threat that twenty-three communities in South Carolina have officially spoken out against.

Sincerely,



Ronald J. Ciancio  
Mayor



# City of Folly Beach

P.O. Box 48  
Folly Beach, South Carolina 29439

June 7, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President,  
United State of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of the City of Folly Beach, I write to express my grave concerns about several pending federal permits that would allow seismic testing for oil and gas to move forward along a vast swath of the Atlantic coast. I ask that the Administration deny all pending permits for seismic testing in the Atlantic OCS for the reasons outlined below.

Twenty-three (23) resolutions have now been adopted by municipalities and counties in South Carolina expressing opposition to offshore oil and gas activities, including seismic testing. These communities span the entire South Carolina coast, from Hilton Head to Beaufort to Charleston to Georgetown to Myrtle Beach, and encompass all three of South Carolina's fastest growing metro areas. Over one hundred (100) resolutions have been adopted by communities along the Atlantic coast to express concerns about the impact these activities would have on tourism, fisheries, the environment, and the quality of life for coastal residents.

Proposed seismic testing, which has raised extensive concerns about wildlife impacts from a large contingency of leading marine scientists and research institutions, ultimately paves the way for future oil and gas development. Oil and gas development creates the risk of a major oil spill off of our coast while encouraging industrial activities that are inconsistent with the character of our coastal communities. These tests would also produce proprietary data that will not be shared with the public or the states.



Our state's fisheries and ocean based tourism and recreation support nearly 79,000 jobs and generate over \$7 billion in economic activity each year in South Carolina. Moving forward with seismic testing and offshore drilling would mean the industrialization of our state's coastline with oil and gas infrastructure, create use-conflicts in the waters along our coast, and place us at risk of a catastrophic disaster like the BP oil spill of 2010. Ultimately, offshore drilling and seismic testing represent clear conflicts for the existing economic and environmental advantages enjoyed by our coastal communities.

I applaud your Administration's recent decision to remove the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) from the 2017-2022 Proposed Leasing Program. Your responsiveness to the widespread opposition to oil and gas development from coastal communities, local governments, and businesses reflects the highest ideals of our nation's democratic principle of government.

Rather than continuing to move forward with the federal permitting process that would result in seismic testing and potentially future drilling off the coast of South Carolina, we ask that you take immediate action to eliminate this threat that twenty-three communities in South Carolina have officially spoken out against.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tim Goodwin', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mayor Tim Goodwin  
City of Folly Beach



CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President,  
United State of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Obama,

We, the undersigned mayors, write to express our grave concerns about several pending federal permits that would allow seismic testing for oil and gas to move forward along a vast swath of the Atlantic coast. We ask that the Administration deny all pending permits for seismic testing in the Atlantic OCS for the reasons outlined below.

Twenty-three (23) resolutions have now been adopted by municipalities and counties in South Carolina expressing opposition to offshore oil and gas activities, including seismic testing. These communities span the entire South Carolina coast, from Hilton Head to Beaufort to Charleston to Georgetown to Myrtle Beach, and encompass all three of South Carolina's fastest growing metro areas. Over one hundred (100) resolutions have been adopted by communities along the Atlantic coast to express concerns about the impact these activities would have on tourism, fisheries, the environment, and the quality of life for coastal residents.

Proposed seismic testing, which has raised extensive concerns about wildlife impacts from a large contingency of leading marine scientists and research institutions, ultimately paves the way for future oil and gas development. Oil and gas development creates the risk of a major oil spill off of our coast while encouraging industrial activities that are inconsistent with the character of our coastal communities. These tests would also produce proprietary data that will not be shared with the public or the states.


Our state's fisheries and ocean based tourism and recreation support nearly 79,000 jobs and generate over \$7 billion in economic activity each year in South Carolina. Moving forward with seismic testing and offshore drilling would mean the industrialization of our state's coastline with oil and gas infrastructure, create use-conflicts in the waters along our coast, and place us at risk of a catastrophic disaster like the BP oil spill of 2010. Ultimately, offshore drilling and seismic testing represent clear conflicts for the existing economic and environmental advantages enjoyed by our coastal communities.



We applaud your Administration's recent decision to remove the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) from the 2017-2022 Proposed Leasing Program. Your responsiveness to the widespread opposition to oil and gas development from coastal communities, local governments, and businesses reflects the highest ideals of our nation's democratic principle of government.

Rather than continuing to move forward with the federal permitting process that would result in seismic testing and potentially future drilling off the coast of South Carolina, we ask that you take immediate action to eliminate this threat that twenty-three communities in South Carolina have officially spoken out against.

Sincerely,



John Rhodes  
Mayor

Town of Kiawah Island

**Resolution 2015-01**

**WHEREAS**, concern has been expressed about the possible impact on marine life of seismic testing for oil and gas deposits offshore Kiawah Island and coastal South Carolina, and

**WHEREAS**, concern has been expressed about the possible impact of oil spills should such occur when drilling for or producing oil and gas offshore Kiawah Island and coastal South Carolina, and

**WHEREAS**, storms and earth tremors are potential occurrences on Kiawah Island and coastal South Carolina and such occurrences have the potential to damage offshore drilling and production platforms thereby causing oil leaks, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Kiawah Island endeavors to be a good steward of its coastal environment, protecting and preserving the Island's ten miles of pristine beach for current and future generations.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Kiawah Island, are opposed to seismic testing, and oil and gas exploration and production offshore Kiawah Island and the South Carolina coast.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF KIAWAH ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THE 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2015.**



Charles R. Lipuma

Mayor, Town of Kiawah Island





PATRICK M. O'NEIL  
MAYOR

## TOWN OF SULLIVAN'S ISLAND



TOWN COUNCIL  
CHAUNCEY CLARK, MAYOR PRO TEM  
SARAH CHURCH  
MARK HOWARD  
RITA LANGLEY  
SUSAN MIDDAGH  
BACHMAN SMITH, IV

ANDY BENKE  
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR  
JASON BLANTON  
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR/COMPTROLLER  
LAWRENCE A. DODDS  
TOWN ATTORNEY  
GREG GRESS  
WATER AND SEWER MANAGER  
JOE HENDERSON  
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR  
DANIEL J. HOWARD  
CHIEF OF POLICE  
ELLEN MILLER  
TOWN CLERK  
RANDY ROBINSON  
BUILDING OFFICIAL  
M. ANTHONY STITH  
FIRE CHIEF

June 6, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President  
United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

RE: Seismic Testing in the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS)

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of the Town Council of the Town of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, I write to express our grave concerns about several pending federal permits that would allow seismic testing for oil and gas to move forward along a vast swath of the Atlantic coast. We ask that the Administration deny all pending permits for seismic testing in the Atlantic OCS for the reasons outlined below.

Including that of our Town of Sullivan's Island, twenty-three (23) resolutions have now been adopted by municipalities and counties in South Carolina expressing opposition to offshore oil and gas activities, including seismic testing. These communities span the entire South Carolina coast, from Hilton Head to Beaufort to Charleston to Georgetown to Myrtle Beach, and encompass all three of South Carolina's fastest growing metro areas. Over one hundred (100) resolutions have been adopted by communities along the Atlantic coast to express concerns about the impact these activities would have on tourism, fisheries, the environment, and the quality of life for coastal residents.

Proposed seismic testing, which has raised extensive concerns about wildlife impacts from a large contingency of leading marine scientists and research institutions, ultimately paves the way for future oil and gas development. Oil and gas development creates the risk of a major oil spill off of our coast while encouraging industrial activities that are inconsistent with the character of our coastal communities. These tests would also produce proprietary data that will not be shared with the public or the states.

Our state's fisheries and ocean based tourism and recreation support nearly 79,000

June 6, 2016

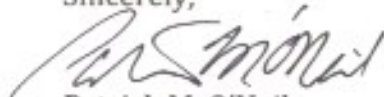
Page Two

jobs and generate over \$7 billion in economic activity each year in South Carolina. Moving forward with seismic testing and offshore drilling would mean the industrialization of our state's coastline with oil and gas infrastructure, create use-conflicts in the waters along our coast, and place us at risk of a catastrophic disaster like the BP oil spill of 2010. Ultimately, offshore drilling and seismic testing represent clear conflicts for the existing economic and environmental advantages enjoyed by our coastal communities.

We applaud your Administration's recent decision to remove the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) from the 2017-2022 Proposed Leasing Program. Your responsiveness to the widespread opposition to oil and gas development from coastal communities, local governments, and businesses reflects the highest ideals of our nation's democratic principle of government.

Rather than continuing to move forward with the federal permitting process that would result in seismic testing and potential future drilling off the coast of South Carolina, we ask that you take immediate action to eliminate this threat that twenty-three communities in South Carolina have officially spoken out against.

Sincerely,



Patrick M. O'Neil  
Mayor



# Town of James Island

*Bill Woolsey*  
Mayor



Council Members

*Leonard Blank*

*Garrett Milliken*

*Darren Troy Mullinar*

*Joshua P. Stokes*

June 15, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President,  
United State of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Obama,

I am writing to express my grave concerns about several pending federal permits that would allow seismic testing for oil and gas to move forward along a vast swath of the Atlantic coast. Please deny all pending permits for seismic testing in the Atlantic OCS for the reasons outlined below.

Twenty-three (23) resolutions have now been adopted by municipalities and counties in South Carolina expressing opposition to offshore oil and gas activities, including seismic testing. These communities span the entire South Carolina coast, from Hilton Head to Beaufort to Charleston to Georgetown to Myrtle Beach, and encompass all three of South Carolina's fastest growing metro areas. Over one hundred (100) resolutions have been adopted by communities along the Atlantic coast to express concerns about the impact these activities would have on tourism, fisheries, the environment, and the quality of life for coastal residents.

Proposed seismic testing, which has raised extensive concerns about wildlife impacts from a large contingency of leading marine scientists and research institutions, ultimately paves the way for future oil and gas development. Oil and gas development creates the risk of a major oil spill off of our coast while encouraging industrial activities that are inconsistent with the character of our coastal communities. These tests would also produce proprietary data that will not be shared with the public or the states.

Our state's fisheries and ocean based tourism and recreation support nearly 79,000 jobs and generate over \$7 billion in economic activity each year in South Carolina. Moving forward with seismic testing and offshore drilling would mean the industrialization of our state's coastline with oil and gas infrastructure, create use-conflicts in the waters along our coast, and place us at risk of a catastrophic disaster like the BP oil spill of 2010. Ultimately, offshore drilling and seismic testing represent

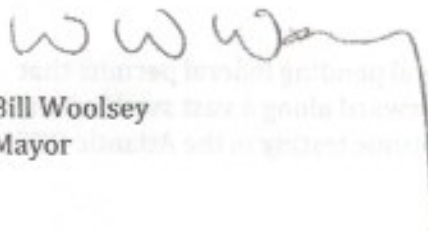
[www.jamesislandsc.us](http://www.jamesislandsc.us)

clear conflicts for the existing economic and environmental advantages enjoyed by our coastal communities.

I applaud your Administration's recent decision to remove the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) from the 2017-2022 Proposed Leasing Program. Your responsiveness to the widespread opposition to oil and gas development from coastal communities, local governments, and businesses reflects the highest ideals of our nation's democratic principle of government.

Rather than continuing to move forward with the federal permitting process that would result in seismic testing and potentially future drilling off the coast of South Carolina, I ask that you take immediate action to eliminate this threat that twenty-three communities in South Carolina have officially spoken out against.

Sincerely,



Bill Woolsey  
Mayor



# Town of Edisto Beach

Jane S. Darby, Mayor

**Administration**

Iris Hill, Town Administrator

Deborah Hargis, Municipal Clerk



**Council Members**

Susan Hornsby, Mayor Pro Tem

Jerome W. Kizer

W. Crawford Moore, Jr.

Patti Sawyer

June 6, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Obama,

We, the undersigned mayors, write to express our grave concerns about several pending federal permits that would allow seismic testing for oil and gas to move forward along a vast swath of the Atlantic coast. We ask that the Administration deny all pending permits for seismic testing in the Atlantic OCS for the reasons outlined below.

Twenty-three (23) resolutions have now been adopted by municipalities and counties in South Carolina expressing opposition to offshore oil and gas activities, including seismic testing. These communities span the entire South Carolina coast, from Hilton Head to Beaufort to Charleston to Georgetown to Myrtle Beach, and encompass all three of South Carolina's fastest growing metro areas. Over one hundred (100) resolutions have been adopted by communities along the Atlantic coast to express concerns about the impact these activities would have on tourism, fisheries, the environment, and the quality of life for coastal residents.

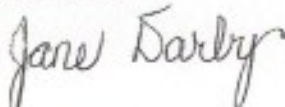
Proposed seismic testing, which has raised extensive concerns about wildlife impacts from a large contingency of leading marine scientists and research institutions, ultimately paves the way for future oil and gas development. Oil and gas development creates the risk of a major oil spill off of our coast while encouraging industrial activities that are inconsistent with the character of our coastal communities. These tests would also produce proprietary data that will not be shared with the public or the states.

Our state's fisheries and ocean based tourism and recreation support nearly 79,000 jobs and generate over \$7 billion in economic activity each year in South Carolina. Moving forward with seismic testing and offshore drilling would mean the industrialization of our state's coastline with oil and gas infrastructure, create use-conflicts in the waters along our coast, and place us at risk of a catastrophic disaster like the BP oil spill of 2010. Ultimately, offshore drilling and seismic testing represent clear conflicts for the existing economic and environmental advantages enjoyed by our coastal communities. We applaud your

Administration's recent decision to remove the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) from the 2017-2022 Proposed Leasing Program. Your responsiveness to the widespread opposition to oil and gas development from coastal communities, local governments, and businesses reflects the highest ideals of our nation's democratic principle of government.

Rather than continuing to move forward with the federal permitting process that would result in seismic testing and potentially future drilling off the coast of South Carolina, we ask that you take immediate action to eliminate this threat that twenty-three communities in South Carolina have officially spoken out against.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Darby".

Jane Darby, Mayor  
Town of Edisto Beach



### Resolution Opposing Seismic Air-gun Testing In The Atlantic Ocean

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Edisto Beach endeavors to be a good steward of the coastal environment and its resources; and

**WHEREAS**, seismic air-gun testing is being proposed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for the exploration of oil and natural gas off the mid-Atlantic coast; and

**WHEREAS**, tourism is the major economic force in the Town of Edisto Beach and offshore drilling poses a major threat to our coastal economy and natural resources, and should a spill occur, the natural environment that supports our local economy would be severely damaged and the quality of life that both residents and visitors have come to expect would be negatively affected for the foreseeable future; and

**WHEREAS**, the seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean. The dynamite-like blasts occur every ten seconds, for days to weeks at a time. Seismic air-guns are loud enough to kill small animals like fish eggs and larvae at close ranges and can disrupt the behavior of large animals like dolphins and whales from up to 100 miles away; and

**WHEREAS**, these blasts have been associated with shifting soil resulting in structural damage; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Edisto Beach believes that more research should be done to fully understand all impacts of seismic testing and options for mitigating those impacts; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed seismic air-gun testing will result in serious negative impact to our marine resources, which form the foundation of economic vitality for communities all along the Atlantic Coast.


**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that The Town Council of the Town of Edisto Beach, South Carolina is opposed to seismic air-gun testing and urges the BOEM to stop this process and focus on ensuring the vitality of vulnerable local economies along the Atlantic Coast as we cannot continue to put our ocean, environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk.

SIGNED, SEALED AND ADOPTED BY Town Council this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.

  
Burley L. Lyons, Mayor

  
Pete Anderson, Council Member

  
Jane Darby, Mayor Pro Tempore

  
Susan Hornsby, Council Member

  
Patti Smyer, Council Member

# CITY OF ISLE OF PALMS

South Carolina

Mayor:  
Dick Cronin

City Council:  
Barbara Bergwerf  
Marty Bettelli  
Jimmy Carroll  
Sandy Ferencz  
Patrick Harrington  
Ted Kinghorn  
Carol Rice  
Jimmy Ward

June 2, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President,  
United State of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Obama,

We, the undersigned mayors, write to express our grave concerns about several pending federal permits that would allow seismic testing for oil and gas to move forward along a vast swath of the Atlantic coast. We ask that the Administration deny all pending permits for seismic testing in the Atlantic OCS for the reasons outlined below.

Twenty-three (23) resolutions have now been adopted by municipalities and counties in South Carolina expressing opposition to offshore oil and gas activities, including seismic testing. These communities span the entire South Carolina coast, from Hilton Head to Beaufort to Charleston to Georgetown to Myrtle Beach, and encompass all three of South Carolina's fastest growing metro areas. Over one hundred (100) resolutions have been adopted by communities along the Atlantic coast to express concerns about the impact these activities would have on tourism, fisheries, the environment, and the quality of life for coastal residents.

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Our state's fisheries and ocean based tourism and recreation support nearly 79,000 jobs and generate over \$7 billion in economic activity each year in South Carolina. Moving forward with seismic testing and offshore drilling would mean the industrialization of our state's coastline with oil and gas infrastructure, create use-conflicts in the waters along

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our coast, and place us at risk of a catastrophic disaster like the BP oil spill of 2010. Ultimately, offshore drilling and seismic testing represent clear conflicts for the existing economic and environmental advantages enjoyed by our coastal communities.

We applaud your Administration's recent decision to remove the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) from the 2017-2022 Proposed Leasing Program. Your responsiveness to the widespread opposition to oil and gas development from coastal communities, local governments, and businesses reflects the highest ideals of our nation's democratic principle of government.

Rather than continuing to move forward with the federal permitting process that would result in seismic testing and potentially future drilling off the coast of South Carolina, we ask that you take immediate action to eliminate this threat that twenty-three communities in South Carolina have officially spoken out against.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dick", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Dick Cronin  
Mayor  
City of Isle of Palms, SC

June 8, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President,  
United State of America  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Obama,

We, the undersigned mayors, write to express our grave concerns about several pending federal permits that would allow seismic testing for oil and gas to move forward along a vast swath of the Atlantic coast. We ask that the Administration deny all pending permits for seismic testing in the Atlantic OCS for the reasons outlined below.

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Rather than continuing to move forward with the federal permitting process that would result in seismic testing and potential future drilling off the coast of South Carolina, we would respectfully ask that you take immediate action to eliminate this threat that twenty-three communities in South Carolina have officially spoken out against.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Riley Bradham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Riley Bradham  
Mayor, Town of Rockville