

RESOLUTION NO. 2015 - 37

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING THE 114th UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT S.1171 PLACING A MORATORIUM ON OIL AND GAS-RELATED SEISMIC ACTIVITIES IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OFF THE COASTLINE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the Board of County Commissioners of Flagler County offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean is both environmentally unfriendly and an extremely hazardous practice, presenting a great health and safety, ecological, and economic danger to the people of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act in 2006, placing a leasing and drilling moratorium on the OCS Eastern Gulf of Mexico until 2022; and

WHEREAS, The President of the United States in response to the Deepwater Horizon Event in April of 2010, and with concerns about the safety of deepwater drilling, developed the 2012-2017 lease plan prohibiting new offshore drilling and allowing lease sales in only those areas already open to permitting; and

WHEREAS, The Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill in April of 2010 has caused tens of billions of dollars in ongoing economic recovery cost and immeasurable ecological damage in the Gulf of Mexico and along the coastline of Alabama and the panhandle of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Flagler County is aware of the long-term ecological impact to oceanic reefs and marine life caused by expanding incidents relating to oil and gas accidents and considers these environmentally harmful events a threat to both man and animal; and

WHEREAS, Flagler County is equally concerned about the exponentially growing number of anthropogenic-linked seismic events, causing harm to persons and property, proliferated in States with long-term 'fracking' and advanced hydraulic well-drilling practices, and defined by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) as "induced seismicity;" and

WHEREAS, the promotion of tourism throughout the State of Florida would be severely impacted by the proliferation of offshore well drilling and any incidents relating to these practices that would cause long-term, excessive damage to natural ecosystems and beautiful coastline retreat vacation destinations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Flagler County, Florida, that:


The chief role of government is the service and protection of its citizens and that the enormity of environmental and ecological risk, in addition to that of public health and human safety, surpass the desire to expand oil and gas exploration and drilling in the advancement of strategic private business goals and objectives;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Flagler County, Florida that:

The County urges Congress, in the economic well-being and in the interest of the continued promotion of tourism in the State of Florida, to support S.1171 placing a moratorium on oil and gas-related seismic activity in and around the 200 mile coastal boundaries labeled the "exclusive economic zone" as defined by United States Code (Title 46 Section 107).

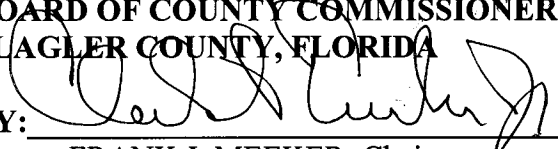
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners, this 18th day of May, 2015.

ATTEST:


GAIL WADSWORTH, Clerk of the
Circuit Court and Comptroller

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FLAGLER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

BY:


FRANK J. MEEKER, Chairman
CHARLES ERICKSEN, JR. VICE CHAIR

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Al Hadeed, County Attorney