

A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE TOWN OF ROCKVILLE'S OPPOSITION TO SEISMIC TESTING AND OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is currently in the process of trying to open the mid-Atlantic Ocean 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 at 200-230 decibels (for comparison a jet engine at 50 meters or a gunshot is 140 decibels). Air gun 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;

WHEREAS, the full impact 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 to coastal wetlands surrounding Wadmalaw Island, 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 Rockville is a State of South Carolina municipality where appreciation of our natural coastal and historical environment is central to our standard of living, and;

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

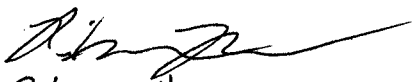
WHEREAS, the exploration and development of oil and gas off the mid-Atlantic coast will not effectively address the long-term energy needs of our country; and,


WHEREAS, the Town of Rockville recommends that it would be economically and ecologically irresponsible to pursue seismic testing and/or offshore oil and gas developments that do pose risk to our coastal environment and economic health.


NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF ROCKVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA THAT:

Section 1: That the foregoing recitals are incorporated in and made part of this reference.

Section 2: The Town of Rockville is opposed to offshore seismic testing and offshore oil and gas development off the South Carolina coast.


Riley Bradham


ZACHARY NELSON


HENRY C. HOLST

4/20/15