

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING SEISMIC SURVEYING AND DRILLING FOR OIL AND GAS OFF THE NORTH CAROLINA COAST AND URGING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO HONOR THE REQUEST OF NORTH CAROLINA'S COASTAL COMMUNITIES BY REMOVING ALL PORTIONS OF THE ATLANTIC FROM THE 2019-2024 OCS OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM. (2018-04-11/R-1)

WHEREAS, offshore exploration for oil and natural gas in the Atlantic Ocean and associated seismic surveying represent a direct threat to the coastal environment of North Carolina, due to the risk of pollution and other harmful effects to marine mammals, turtles, fish, migratory birds and other aquatic life; and

WHEREAS, the economic sustainability of the North Carolina coast is directly dependent on visitors who come from all over the world, including from the Town of Chapel Hill, to enjoy the natural beauty of our clean North Carolina beaches, and to explore the sounds, marshes, estuaries, rivers, creeks and streams that abound on the North Carolina coast; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina beaches and inlets generate \$3 billion in revenues and directly support 39,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, many of these natural areas provide sanctuary and nesting/breeding grounds for diverse groups of wildlife, having intrinsic ecological value; and

WHEREAS, our coastal waters are prime commercial and recreational fisheries, and coastal habitats provide the world – including residents and businesses of the Town of Chapel Hill – with some of the best wild-caught seafood, renowned for its freshness and exceptional quality; and

WHEREAS, the inherent serious risk to our region from offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling have the potential to irrevocably harm and destroy our natural environment, our economic well-being, our overall quality of life and the health and safety of residents and visitors to the North Carolina coast; and

WHEREAS, at least 26 coastal North Carolina communities have passed resolutions opposing drilling; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly has prevented local governments from regulating oil and gas activities in their area, limiting their ability to protect air and water and the health and safety of their residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Chapel Hill that the Council is opposed to seismic surveying and drilling for oil and gas off the North Carolina coast and urges the Trump administration to honor the request of North Carolina's coastal communities by removing all portions of the Atlantic from the 2019-2024 OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

This the 11th day of April, 2018.