

RESOLUTION 2009-41

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE APPROVAL FOR EXPANSION OF OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO IN AREAS OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY APPROVED FOR OIL LEASING AND EXPLORATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, adopted by Congress in 2006, prohibits drilling in the part of the Eastern Planning Area of the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Region lying within 125 miles of Florida's coastline, and in a portion of the Central Planning Area of the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf Region, until June 30, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Energy Department's forecasting arm has said opening the Pacific, Atlantic, and eastern Gulf of Mexico regions to drilling would not have a significant impact on domestic crude oil prices before the year 2030; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, House Bill 1219 was introduced in the Legislature of the State of Florida which would allow drilling for oil and gas from between three to nine miles off the West coast of Florida's coastline (mean high tide line) from the Apalachicola area to the Key West area; and

WHEREAS, tourism accounts for one-third of budget revenues statewide and 96% of those visitors cite the beaches as an influential factor in their decision to visit Florida; and

WHEREAS, resort tax collection statewide exceeded 25 million dollars in Fiscal Year 2007 and almost 86 thousand Floridians are employed in businesses that directly or indirectly support tourism; and

WHEREAS, the area with the potential for the greatest risk of environmental damage is the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico, off the western coast of Florida; and

WHEREAS, according to Oil Industry data, an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico can dump up to 90,000 tons of drilling fluid and metal cuttings over its lifetime. These contaminants accumulate in the marine food web and may contaminate local beaches and have a negative effect on the environment and the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, it is our belief that despite technological advances in oil rig drilling technology, there are no positive assurances that catastrophic damage to our coastline, beaches, and plant and fish life could be avoided during normal operating conditions or during storm situations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Town Commission of the Town of Longboat Key, Florida, that:

SECTION 1. The above Whereas clauses are true and correct and are hereby ratified and confirmed.

SECTION 2. The Town of Longboat Key, Florida encourages all elected officials at the County, State, and Federal levels to oppose legislative attempts to allow offshore oil drilling expansion past the areas already approved for pre-leasing, leasing, and oil production activities.

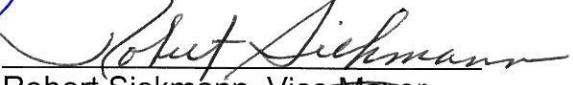
SECTION 3. That before any expansion past the areas already approved for leasing and oil production activities is considered, the existing leases must be exercised and utilized where found to be productive.


SECTION 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

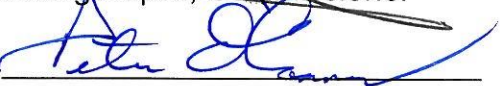
Passed by the Town Commission of the Town of Longboat Key on this 5th day of October, 2009.

Town of Longboat Key


Lee Rothenberg, Mayor


Robert Siekmann, Vice Mayor


George Spoll, Commissioner


Peter O'Connor, Commissioner


Jim Brown, Commissioner


Gene Jaleski, Commissioner


Hal Lenobel, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Trish Granger, Town Clerk

