

RESOLUTION

Opposition of the Daufuskie Island Council to Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling and Seismic Testing Activities on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf

Whereas, the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), under Executive Order, is opening the Mid- and South-Atlantic Ocean to offshore drilling for oil; and

Whereas, seismic air-guns, used in testing to find oil and natural gas, 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, including endangered whales; 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 poses a significant risk of a spill; and

Whereas, "routine" spills, especially during tropical storms and hurricanes, could leave oil slicks and tar balls on Daufuskie Island's and other Atlantic coast beaches, resulting in devastating consequences to Daufuskie's vacation and tourism business, as well as a significant decrease in the quality of life for Daufuskie residents; 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 wetland areas, which provide immense ecological value for numerous bird species, serve as essential habitats for recreationally and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and

Whereas, the exploration for and development of oil and natural gas off the mid-Atlantic and South-Atlantic Coast will not effectively or fully address the long-term energy needs of our country, providing only an estimated 6-day supply of oil nationally;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Daufuskie Island Council affirms on this day, August 15th, 2017 that the Council is opposed to Seismic Testing and Offshore Oil and Gas Development on the Outer Continental Shelf of the Atlantic Ocean, and particularly off South Carolina Coast.

Approved by Daufuskie Island Council on August 15, 2017.