

RESOLUTION R-19-101

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has expressed interest in opening the Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas development and exploration, including risky methods such as seismic airgun blasting; and,

**WHEREAS**, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean at 200-230 decibels, every 10 seconds, 24 hours a day for week to months on end that could prove harmful or injure and kill dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and,

**WHEREAS**, the full impact of seismic airgun blasting and offshore drilling are not yet fully understood by scientists, the oil and gas industry, or the federal government; and,

**WHEREAS**, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of an oil spill and leakage; and,

**WHEREAS**, eventual offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of the coast; and,

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Florida's Coasts, which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, serve as essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and,

**WHEREAS**, Manatee County recognizes that the tourism and fishing industries, which depend on a healthy and vibrant coastal environment, both serve as major economic drivers benefiting the current and future residents, property owners, and visitors to Florida; and,

**WHEREAS**, Manatee County endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and,

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

**WHEREAS**, Manatee County recommends that it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy such as solar and wind, that pose less risk to the coastal environment and economic health before using uncertain methods of seismic airgun blasting for offshore oil and gas deposits.

**NOW THEREFORE**, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, that offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk; therefore the County Commission expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen R. Jonsson, Chairman

ATTEST: Angelina Colonneso  
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

By: \_\_\_\_\_