

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO SEISMIC TESTING AND OIL & GAS EXPLORATION OFF HOLDEN BEACH SHORES

WHEREAS, the environment of Holden Beach is a haven for a wide array of wildlife, including nearly 200 species of birds, dolphins, loggerhead turtles, alligators, deer, and an amazing variety of fish.

WHEREAS, the island's pristine beach provides a remote community for vacationers, tourists and residents to enjoy beautiful, natural, scenic vistas and experience cultural and historical resources, including numerous shipwrecks and artifacts comprising the Graveyard of the Atlantic.

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has developed the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program Draft Proposed Program (DPP).

WHEREAS, the Holden Beach Property Owners Association (HBPOA) surveyed Holden Beach property owners and discovered the majority oppose oil and gas exploration (drilling) activities off Holden Beach shores.

WHEREAS, at the September 5, 2015 HBPOA Membership Meeting, a motion was unanimously passed opposing seismic testing and oil and gas exploration.

WHEREAS, it is our position that oil and gas exploration and drilling will negatively impact property values of homes located on Holden Beach, reduce the revenue received from tourism and damage the sensitive ecology of our region.

WHEREAS, there is concern among property owners with experience and devotion to conserving sea turtles that the noise required for seismic exploration may startle, impair and/or drive away sea turtles from the island.

WHEREAS, according to a recent study by North Carolina State University Professor Dr. Michael Walden, the potential annual average on-shore costs from possible environmental damage could reduce property values in affected counties by between \$636 million and \$4.7 billion.

WHEREAS, removing North Carolina from consideration of oil/gas activities could be of great value in sustaining property values not just to the benefit Holden Beach property owners but also to support the viability of many of Brunswick County's services.

WHEREAS, North Carolina's most important economic activity is tourism. The state's beaches are vital recreational, economic and ecological treasures, generating an estimated \$3 billion in revenue each year and directly supporting approximately 40,000 jobs in coastal area communities.

WHEREAS, visitor spending is crucial to the sustainability of Holden Beach, helping subsidize amenities and services that are utilized by year-round property owners. The accumulation of oil on the beach will most certainly cause a decline in the number of vacationers who visit the island, rent homes, dine at local restaurants and patronize local businesses, which will be devastating to this community.

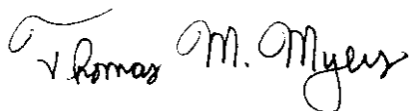
WHEREAS, our sensitive coast provides a haven not only for vacationing families, but also local wildlife. Long-term toxic effects of oil/gas drilling activities can impair reproductive success for marine mammals, sea birds, fish, shellfish and other critical sea life, which has a ripple effect on our coastal economy and ecology.

WHEREAS, on February 20, 2015, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a proposal to designate portions of the East Coast as critical habitat for North Atlantic Right Whales, and a portion of this area overlaps the area being considered as the Mid-Atlantic Planning Area for oil/gas exploration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Holden Beach Property Owners Association opposes seismic testing and oil and gas exploration off Holden Beach shores;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Holden Beach Property Owners Association stands in solidarity with North Carolina coastal communities and with other communities that may be affected by seismic testing and oil and gas exploration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Holden Beach Property Owners Association calls upon Governor Patrick McCrory, Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Donald van der Vaart and the North Carolina General Assembly to protect North Carolina's beautiful beaches and North Carolina's proven tourism driven coastal economy by opposing seismic testing and oil and gas exploration .

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Myers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Tom Myers, President
Holden Beach Property Owners Association