

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO ISSUANCE OF WIND ENERGY LEASES WITHIN 30 NAUTICAL MILES OF 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 been tasked with preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to determine whether issuance of leases and approval of site assessment plans within identified offshore North Carolina would have a significant effect on the environment and whether an environmental impact statement must be prepared.

WHEREAS, the purpose of the EA is to consider the impact of construction and operation of up to one meteorological tower and/or two meteorological buoys for each of the North Carolina WEAs – not to determine any socioeconomic or environmental impacts of full-scale wind farms.

WHEREAS, the Holden Beach Property Owners Association (HBPOA) surveyed Holden Beach property owners and discovered they oppose the installation of wind turbine farms within 10-15 nautical miles from the Island believing the proposed location to have a negative impact on North Carolina tourism, as well as potential damage to the environment and wildlife. Many stated their preference to move the turbines farther from land due to concerns about noise and light pollution.

WHEREAS, at the September 5, 2015 HBPOA Membership Meeting, a motion was passed opposing wind farms located less than 30 miles off our coast.

WHEREAS, numerous studies have documented the positive linkage between good, aesthetic views and higher home values.

WHEREAS, BOEM recognizes a potential visual impact to property values and tourism as evidenced by its commission of research into the subject, most recently a study entitled: *Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Development: Public Attitudes, Values, and Implications for Recreation and Tourism*.

WHEREAS, the EA states that as many as 680 wind turbines will be located within the two Wilmington planning areas – 180 within Wilmington West and 500 within Wilmington East.

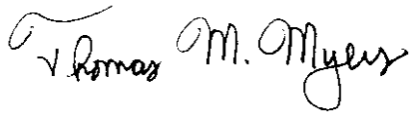
WHEREAS, the EA did not consider impacts of a commercial-scale wind energy facility on property values, visual resources, wildlife, vessel traffic, cultural assets or tourism and recreation.

WHEREAS, BOEM has established a 24 nautical mile no-leasing buffer for the State of Virginia to protect viewsheds, BOEM has established a 24 nautical mile no-leasing buffer for the Kitty Hawk WEA to protect viewsheds, and BOEM has established a 33.7 nautical mile no leasing buffer to protect the Bodie Island Lighthouse.

WHEREAS, on September 18, 2015, BOEM announced its decision to issue wind energy leases for sites within Holden Beach's viewshed. BOEM stated the leases will have no significant impact on the human environment even though "visual impacts from the installation of a wind energy facility were not analyzed." BOEM EA at p. 5-22.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Holden Beach Property Owners Association respectfully requests that BOEM restrict leasing and approval of site assessment plans to exclude locations within 30 nautical miles of Holden Beach and locations where wind turbines would be visible from Holden Beach shores ("Visual Impact Exclusion Area");

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Holden Beach Property Owners Association stands in solidarity with the Bald Head Association, the Bald Head Island Stage II Association, the Middle Island Property Owners Association Village of Bald Head Island, the State of North Carolina, with North Carolina coastal communities and with other communities that may be affected by BOEM wind energy leasing on the continental shelf within 30 nautical miles of the North Carolina shore or within viewing distance from any North Carolina lighthouse; and

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas M. Myers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Tom Myers, President
Holden Beach Property Owners Association