

RESOLUTION 2009- 117

A RESOLUTION OF THE COLLIER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO WITHIN TWENTY-FIVE (25) MILES OF THE COLLIER COUNTY COASTLINE AND OPPOSITION SPECIFICALLY TO PASSAGE OF FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL 1219 (HB 1219) THAT WOULD ALLOW NEAR-SHORE OIL DRILLING THREE (3) MILES OFF THE FLORIDA COAST AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN TO TRANSMIT THIS RESOLUTION TO THE GOVERNOR AND FLORIDA LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, Florida's economy depends on its multi-billion dollar tourism industry, which resulted in more than 82 million visitors coming to Florida in 2008, during which period tourism generated over \$4.0 billion in taxable sales; and,

WHEREAS, Tax revenues from tourism during 2008 exceeded \$1.2 billion and over 31,300 people were directly employed, receiving nearly \$900 million in tourism wages, as a result of the State's tourism industry; and,

WHEREAS, the Collier County local hotel tax alone exceeded \$14.5 million dollars during fiscal year 2008; and,

WHEREAS, oil and natural gas drilling in waters off the coast of Florida will increase the risk of oil pollution on Florida Beaches; and,

WHEREAS, the risk to Florida's economy posed by oil and natural gas drilling off of Florida's coasts is substantial and even a small oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico off of Collier County could be devastating to our most important visitor amenities; and,

WHEREAS, tax revenues generated from Florida's growing tourism industry are critical to continued funding of essential governmental services, including transportation, schools, and public safety; and,

WHEREAS, HB 1219, if passed by the State Legislature, would allow for near-shore gas and oil drilling on submerged stated lands underlying the territorial waters off the State within three (3) miles off the Florida coast; and,

WHEREAS, HB 1219, if passed by the State Legislature, and signed and implemented by the Governor, would permit the installation of oil rigs, pipelines, and drilling near the beaches and in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico and other areas of the Florida coastline; and,

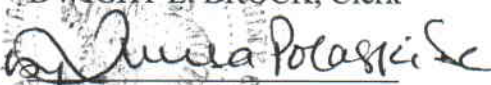
WHEREAS, the Collier County Board of County Commissioners voted that it is its position that better solutions would be generated if the Collier County Legislative Delegation members would consult first with their local County Commission prior to representing Collier County interests on issues of community importance such as offshore drilling; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor and Cabinet prior to making final determination on offshore drilling action and activity would be best serving the citizens of the State of Florida by putting the issue in a statewide referendum.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Collier County opposes offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico within twenty-five (25) miles of the Collier County coastline and opposes specifically the passage of HB 1219 during the 2009 Legislative Session which allows drilling three (3) miles off the coast.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Collier County shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Governor Charlie Crist, Senate President Jeff Atwater, Speaker of the House, Larry Cretul, the Collier County Legislative Delegation, and the Florida Association of Counties, as evidence of the County's opposition of offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico within 25 miles of the Collier County Coastline and to HB 1219.


THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED this 28th day of April, 2009 after a motion, second and majority vote favoring same.

ATTEST
DWIGHT E. BROCK, Clerk

Attest as to Chairman's signature on 11/28/09

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 
DONNA FIALA, Chairman


Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:


Scott R. Teach,
Deputy County Attorney

State of FLORIDA
County of COLLIER

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT this is a true and correct copy of a document on file in Board Minutes and Records of Collier County
WITNESS my hand and official seal this 28th day of April 2009

DWIGHT E. BROCK, CLERK OF COURTS

 D.E. ✓