

RESOLUTION NUMBER R2009- 169

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REAFFIRMING ITS OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE MINERAL EXPLORATION AND EXTRACTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, in 1990, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a Resolution opposing the leasing of Florida coastal areas for offshore oil or gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a Resolution opposing proposed leasing of Florida coastal areas for offshore oil or gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a Resolution reaffirming its opposition to proposed leasing of Florida coastal areas for offshore oil or gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a Resolution reaffirming its opposition to proposed leasing of Florida coastal areas for offshore oil or gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, waters along the panhandle contain significant marine ecosystems that support tourism and fishing industries along the upper west coast and panhandle which bring billions of dollars a year in local and State revenue and provide environmental and aesthetic value; and

WHEREAS, wind and water currents off the panhandle may carry pollutants associated with drilling that could destroy oyster harvesting, the fishing industries and tourism in North Florida, and even routine drilling operations could cause widespread pollution damage to panhandle beaches, wetlands and sea grasses; and

WHEREAS, the testing and training ranges of the eastern Gulf of Mexico are a unique and irreplaceable national security asset that provides critical live-fire testing and training opportunities that are incompatible with mineral exploration and extraction; and

WHEREAS, lifting the moratorium on mineral leasing in the Eastern Planning Area of the Gulf of Mexico poses an intolerable threat to the beaches, waterways, economy of Florida's Gulf Coast, and national security;

Verified by: CMitchell

Date: 8/21/2009

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the Board of County Commissioners finds the above recitals to be true and correct and incorporates them herein by reference.

Section 2. That the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners hereby affirms its opposition to offshore mineral exploration and extraction within 125 miles of the coastline and encourages its citizenry to express its opposition.

Section 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Board of County Commissioners.

Section 4. That the Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Senators Mel Martinez and Bill Nelson and Congressmen Kendrick Meek and Jeff Miller.

ADOPTED this 20th day of August, 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Marie Young
Marie Young, Chairman

ATTEST: Ernie Lee Magaha
Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

BCC Approved 08-20-2009

Date Executed
8/20/2009

This document approved/as to form and legal sufficiency.
By: [Signature]
Title: PCIT
Date: 8/20/09