

RESOLUTION NO. 11-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF REDINGTON SHORES, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE APPROVAL OF OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO IN AREAS OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY APPROVED FOR OIL LEASING AND OIL EXPLORATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Congressional ban on offshore oil drilling, which has been in effect since 1981, was put in place to reduce the chances of environmental damage from oil spills and to protect the tourist industry; and

WHEREAS, long-term protection for the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, which is east of the military mission line, was recognized in a 2006 moratorium prohibiting oil and natural gas leasing or drilling within 235 miles of Pinellas County's coast; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional ban recognizes this military mission training zone is not only critical to the protection of our state's beaches and unique environment but to the training of our nation's soldiers, sailors, marines and pilots who exercise there on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, tourism accounts for one third of our budget revenues statewide and 96% of those visitors cite the beaches as an influential factor in their decision to visit Florida; and

WHEREAS, resort tax collection statewide exceeded 25 million dollars in FY 2007 and almost 86 thousand Floridians are employed in businesses that directly or indirectly support tourism; and

WHEREAS, the area with the potential for the greatest risk of environmental damage is the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico, off the western coast of Florida; and

WHEREAS, environmental specialists contend the major risk from drilling platforms is the wastewater they routinely discharge which contain drilling fluids and heavy metals including mercury; and

WHEREAS, according to oil industry data, an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico can dump up to 90,000 tons of drilling fluid and metal cuttings over its lifetime. These contaminants accumulate in the marine food web and might contaminate local beaches and have a negative effect on the environment and the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, it is our belief that despite technological advances in oil rig drilling technology, there is no positive assurance that catastrophic damage to our coastline, beaches, plant and fish life could be avoided during normal operating conditions or during storm situations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF REDINGTON SHORES, FLORIDA that we encourage all elected officials at the County, State and Federal levels to oppose legislative attempts to allow offshore oil drilling expansion past the areas already

approved for pre-leasing, leasing and oil production activities and to take immediate steps to encourage and assist in the development of alternate sources of energy.

The foregoing Resolution was offered during Regular Session of the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Redington Shores, Florida, on the 8th day of October, 2008, by Vice Mayor Adams, who moved its adoption, and said motion was seconded by Commissioner Holthaus; and upon roll call, the vote was:

AYES: 4

NAYS: 1

ABSENT: 0

ABSTAINING: 0

MAYOR/COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

TOWN CLERK