

A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS EARTH ETHICS'S OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING

WHEREAS, the United States government has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean, Arctic, Pacific Ocean, and Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas development and exploration, including risky methods such as seismic airgun blasting; and,

WHEREAS, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean, every 10-12 seconds for days, weeks, or months on end; and,

WHEREAS, seismic airgun noise has been shown to harm and injure dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and,

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of oil spills and chronic leakage; and,

WHEREAS, eventual offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of the coast; and,

WHEREAS, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Florida's Coasts, which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, provide essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and,

WHEREAS, Earth Ethics recognizes that the tourism and fishing industries, which depend on a healthy and vibrant coastal environment, both serve as major economic drivers benefiting the current and future residents, property owners, and visitors to Florida; and,

WHEREAS, Earth Ethics endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and,

WHEREAS, exploration and development of oil and gas resources off the coast of Florida or any other area will not effectively address the long-term energy needs of our country; and,

WHEREAS, Earth Ethics recommends that it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy such as solar and wind, that pose less risk to the coastal environment and economic health before using uncertain methods of seismic airgun blasting for offshore oil and gas deposits.

WHEREAS, Earth Ethics supports S. 74 Marine Oil Spill Prevention Act and companion bill H.R. 2261 that would amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to extend the moratorium on oil and gas leasing in certain areas in the Gulf of Mexico until June 30, 2027.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED EARTH ETHICS THAT:

Offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk; therefore the Council expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast.

S. 74 Marine Oil Spill Prevention Act and companion bill H.R. 2261 would amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to extend the existing moratorium on oil and gas leasing in certain areas in the Gulf of Mexico expiring in 2022 until June 30, 2027 would protect Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies; therefore the Council expresses its support to this amend to the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006.

Signed Mary Gutierrez Date: January 7, 2018
Executive Director