

RESOLUTION NO. 111 - 2017

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA OPPOSING OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING IN THE EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO AND SUPPORTING THE CURRENT MORATORIUM ON DRILLING IN THE EASTERN GULF.

WHEREAS, Monroe County, aka “The Florida Keys,” is a series of islands nestled between the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean, and whose coastline encompasses the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (“FKNMS”) and Everglades National Park; and

WHEREAS, the unique marine ecosystem of the Florida Keys is home to the only living coral reef in the continental United States and the largest documented sea grass bed in the world, and supports more than 6,000 species of fishes, invertebrates, and plants; and

WHEREAS, the Gulf waters surrounding the Florida Keys provide critical spawning habitats to a multitude of recreational and commercial migratory, endemic, coastal and pelagic finfish and shellfish, and unparalleled support to fisheries of the entire Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Monroe County’s near shore waters alone provide habitat for 80 percent of the fish species in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Gulf’s marine environment provides the foundation for robust local and regional economic activity, primarily tourism and recreational and commercial fishery industries that generate more than 70,000 jobs and more than \$6 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 the Deepwater Horizon Oil rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico killed 11 people and caused the largest marine oil spill in U.S. history, spilling almost 5 million barrels of oil over 84 straight days, and oiling more than 1,000 linear miles of shoreline and habitat, killing an estimated 1 million birds and thousands of sea turtles and dolphins, extensively damaging deep sea coral communities, and killing and contaminating untold numbers of fish, shrimp and oysters; and

WHEREAS, oil drilling activity in the Gulf of Mexico and accidents such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill are incompatible with protecting the Gulf’s environmental resources and clean and healthy waters that the State of Florida and its coastal communities such as the Florida Keys are so economically dependent upon; and

WHEREAS, located in the eastern Gulf of Mexico is the Joint Gulf Range Complex, a critical military testing and training zone, whose national defense activities are incompatible with drilling activity; and

WHEREAS in 2006 Congress passed the Gulf of Mexico Energy and Security Act (P.L 109-432) creating a moratorium on drilling in most of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the US Department of the Interior has announced its intention to lift the moratorium and open up for sale for oil and gas drilling 73 million acres in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Monroe County's citizens have on numerous previous occasions expressed opposition to offshore oil drilling in waters in and about the Florida Keys with Resolutions 203-1987, 178-1988, 223-2008, 130-2006, and 136-2010; and

WHEREAS, Monroe County's citizens remain strongly opposed to the lifting of the moratorium and any new offshore oil and gas leasing, exploration, drilling activity and seismic inventories affecting Florida's coast, and continue to support the strongest possible protections for Florida and its invaluable environmental resources from the impacts of offshore oil and gas exploration; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners that:

1. The above recitals are hereby incorporated into this resolution as restated herein constitute the legislative findings and intent of the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida.
2. The Clerk for this Board shall furnish copies of this resolution to:
 - U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, 716 Senate Hart Office Building, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510
 - U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, 284 Russell Senate Office Building, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510
 - U.S. Representative Carlos Curbelo, District 26, 1404 Longworth House Office Building, United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515
 - Florida Governor Rick Scott, State of Florida, The Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
 - Florida Senate President Joe Negron, 305 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
 - Florida House Speaker Richard Corcoran, 420 The Capitol, 402 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
 - State Senator Anitere Flores, District 39, 404 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
 - State Representative Holly Raschein, District 120, 209 House Office Building, 402 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
 - Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.
 - Secretary Ryan Matthews, Florida DEP, Office of the Secretary, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32399

5. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County Florida, at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 12th day of April, 2017.

Mayor George Neugent	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Pro Tem David Rice	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Danny Kolhage	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Heather Carruthers	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Sylvia Murphy	<u>Yes</u>



Attest: Kevin Madok, Clerk

By: *Garnett Starnock*

Deputy Clerk

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: *George E. Neugent*

Mayor

MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA
APPROVED AS TO FORM
Pedro J. Mercado
PEDRO J. MERCADO
ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
Date 3/30/17

FILED FOR RECORD
2017 APR 18 AM 11:09
CLK. CLK. CLK.
MONROE COUNTY, FLA