

RESOLUTION  
NUMBER 2007- 123

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A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF  
FLORIDA SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 436 WHICH  
PROPOSES A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO  
PROHIBIT OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING WITHIN 250  
MILES OF THE FLORIDA COASTLINE.

WHEREAS, Florida's economy depends on its multi-billion dollar tourism industry: over 88 million visitors came to Florida in 2006, and they generated over \$62 billion in taxable sales; tax revenues from tourism that year exceeded \$3.7 billion; and over 948,000 people were employed by the tourism industry in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Charlotte Convention & Visitors Bureau estimates 300 thousand tourists visited Charlotte County in 2006; total visitor expenditures exceeded \$295 million; direct economic impact from visitors created over 5,500 jobs and over \$295 million during fiscal year 2006; 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; for example, a small oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico off of Charlotte County could be devastating to our most important visitor amenity; 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, Senator Mike Bennett has filed Senate Joint Resolution 436, which would place on the ballot for the consideration of Florida voters a prohibition on offshore oil drilling within 250 miles of Florida coasts; and

WHEREAS, Senate Joint Resolution 436 would allow Florida voters to be heard, and if approved by the voters would place a permanent buffer around Florida's coast to protect Florida economy and environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County, Florida:

1. The Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County, Florida supports the passage of Senate Joint Resolution 436 during the 2007 legislative session.

2. The Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Charlotte County shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Senator Mike Bennett as evidence of the County's support of Senate Joint Resolution 436.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED this 11 day of September, 2007.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY FLORIDA

By Richard D. Loftus  
Richard D. Loftus, Chairman

ATTEST:

Barbara T. Scott, Clerk of Circuit  
Court and Ex-officio Clerk to the  
Board of County Commissioners

By Aune L. Pahlke  
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM  
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

Janette S. Knowlton  
Janette S. Knowlton, County Attorney

MB