

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: C. Mitchell

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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: ACT  
Date: 8/20/09

BCC 08-20-2009



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
Escambia County, Florida

**ORGANIZATION:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Grover C. Robinson, IV, Commissioner *GCR*  
District Four

**DATE:** August 10, 2009

**ISSUE:** Adoption of Resolution Reaffirming Opposition to Offshore Mineral  
Exploration and Extraction

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board adopt the Resolution reaffirming its opposition to offshore mineral exploration and extraction in the areas off the coast of Florida, in the Gulf of Mexico and authorize the Chairman to sign the Resolution.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 1990 and 1998 the Board adopted Resolutions opposing the leasing of Florida coastal areas for offshore oil or gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. In 2003 and again in 2008, the Board adopted Resolutions affirming their opposition to proposed leasing of Florida coastal areas for offshore oil or gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.

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.

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.

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.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:** N/A

**LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS/SIGN-OFF:** The County Attorney's Office prepared the Resolution.

**PERSONNEL:** N/A

**POLICY/REQUIREMENT FOR BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION:** Resolutions require Board approval.

CAR 111-2

BCC: 08-20-2009  
RE: Adoption of Resolution  
August 10, 2009  
Page 2 of 2

**IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:** N/A

**COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES/PERSONS:** The Clerk to the Board shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Senators Mel Martinez and Bill Nelson and Congressmen Kendrick Meek and Jeff Miller.

GCRIV:RRM:slg