



Sarasota County



City of Sarasota



Venice, Florida

"City on the Gulf"

City of Venice



Town of Longboat Key



City of North Port

October 9, 2009

Subject: Prohibit Offshore Drilling in Florida Waters

Dear Members of the Sarasota County Legislative Delegation:

As elected public officials of Sarasota County, the City of North Port, the City of Sarasota, the City of Venice and the Town of Longboat Key, we want to express our unified strong opposition to legislation that would authorize offshore oil and gas drilling in Florida waters.

Elected local officials attending the convocation of governments on September 29, 2009, unanimously voted to urge the Legislature to prohibit offshore oil and gas drilling in the territorial waters of the state. This is a critical issue to our communities. We ask you to join us in opposing any initiatives designed to allow offshore drilling off the coast of Florida and to retain the current statutory ban on such drilling.

As coastal communities, Sarasota County and the municipalities within the county are extremely concerned about any activity that could impact the quality and health of our coast. We believe that offshore drilling will compromise the integrity of Florida waters. Our community identity, economy and culture are integrally linked and dependent on a healthy and attractive coastal environment. Our valuable marine environments and the wildlife could suffer serious, perhaps catastrophic, and long-lasting harm if an accident occurs off the coast of Florida. Impacts on tourism from spills could cripple our economy. The risks of drilling are too high for our communities and for the State of Florida.

We recognize that this issue generates a great deal of pressure given the current economic situation and the need to seek energy independence. Yet, oil production will take years to develop and the promise of local jobs and increased revenues is highly speculative. Offshore drilling is not a viable long term solution to energy independence and economic development.

We ask the members of the Sarasota County Legislative Delegation to officially oppose any legislative initiatives that facilitate oil and gas exploration off the coast of Florida. This legislation must be opposed to preserve our tourist economy, protect our clean beaches and shores, and ensure that our natural resources and coastal community character are retained.

We are unified in our strong opposition to any initiatives to allow offshore drilling in Florida waters. Please consider our concerns on this critical issue to the state and our community.

Sincerely,

Public Officials of Sarasota County and the Municipalities within the County
(see attached signatures)

Distribution:

Sarasota County Legislative Delegation

The Honorable Ron Reagan
Chair, Sarasota County Legislative Delegation
District 67, Florida House of Representatives

The Honorable Michael Bennett
District 21, Florida Senate

The Honorable Nancy Detert
District 23, Florida Senate

The Honorable Keith Fitzgerald
District 69, Florida House of Representatives

The Honorable Doug Holder
District 70, Florida House of Representatives

The Honorable Ken Roberson
District 71, Florida House of Representatives

The Honorable Darryl Rouson
District 55, Florida House of Representatives

cc.

The Honorable Charlie Crist, Governor
United States Congressman Vern Buchanan
United States Senator Bill Nelson
United States Senator George LeMeaux
The Honorable Jeff Atwater, President of the Florida Senate
The Honorable Larry Cretul, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives
Florida Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee
Florida Senate Policy and Steering Committee on Energy, Environment and Land Use
Florida Senate Committee on Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities
Florida House Energy and Utilities Policy Committee
Florida House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Florida House General Government Policy Council
Florida House Policy Council
United States House Energy and Commerce
United States House Natural Resources
United States Senate Environment and Public Works
United States Senate Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate Finance



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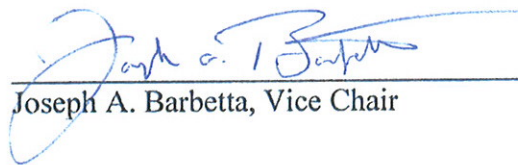


City of North Port

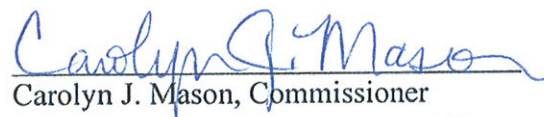
Sarasota Board of County Commissioners



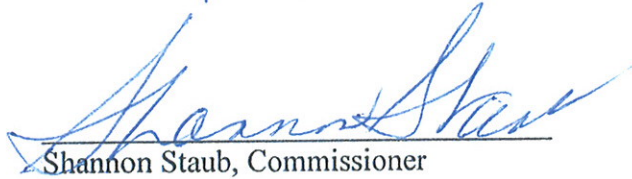
Jon Thaxton, Chair



Joseph A. Barbetta, Vice Chair



Carolyn J. Mason, Commissioner



Shannon Staub, Commissioner



Nora Patterson, Commissioner



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City of Sarasota

Richard Clapp

Richard Clapp, Mayor

Kelly Kirschner

Kelly Kirschner, Vice Mayor

Terry Turner

Terry Turner, Commissioner

Fredd Atkins

Fredd Atkins, Commissioner

Suzanne Atwell

Suzanne Atwell, Commissioner



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City of North Port

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Vanessa Carusone, Chairperson

David Garofalo, Commissioner

Tom Jones, Commissioner

Jim Blucher, Commissioner

Michael Treubert, Commissioner



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City of North Port

City of Venice

Ed Martin, Mayor

Sue Lang, Vice Mayor

Vicki Noren, Council Member

Ernie Zavodnyik, Council Member

John K. Moore, Council Member

Kit McKeon, Council Member

John Simmonds, Council Member



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Lee Rothenberg, Mayor

Robert Siekmann, Vice-Mayor

Jim Brown, Commissioner

George Spell, Commissioner

Peter O'Connor, Commissioner

Gene Jaleski, Commissioner

Hal Lenobel, Commissioner