



RESOLUTION NO. 3-4-11a-2018

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING

WHEREAS, the Federal Government is examining its policies relative to potential offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean and off the coast of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of offshore drilling, if any, to Topsail Beach, the surrounding region, or the State of North Carolina, are substantially outweighed by the unacceptable risks of harm to marine life, the coastline environment, property, business, our livelihood, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Topsail Beach has visitors from all over the country come to enjoy the natural beauty of our pristine beach, sound and inlet. The potential damage to North Carolina's beaches and coastline, should a spill occur, would be devastating to our natural resources and irrevocably harm Topsail Beach's tourism-based economy; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that local and state officials throughout North Carolina and its neighboring states take a unified stand in opposition to offshore drilling because a mishap in one jurisdiction could negatively impact the coastal environment and economy of adjacent areas; and

WHEREAS, other coastal communities and their neighbors have suffered dreadful consequences as the result of offshore energy exploration including countless Gulf Coast communities harmed by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has a long history of hurricanes, and deep water drilling off our state's coast would increase the chances of platform failures and oil spills due to the vulnerability of the coastal waters to severe weather; and

WHEREAS, Topsail Beach recognizes our economic survival depends on the sustainability of the existing environment and protecting the investments the Town has made through our various beach nourishment projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Topsail Beach Board of Commissioners expresses its opposition to offshore drilling and urges the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, the United States Congress, the Governor of the State of North Carolina, and the North Carolina General Assembly to oppose offshore drilling policies that risk the health, safety and sound environmental stewardship of North Carolina's coastline; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Topsail Beach is in opposition to seismic testing and is opposed to the exploration and development of oil/gas resources on the continental shelf or elsewhere off the coast of North Carolina.

This 11th day of April, 2018.

Howard M. Braxton Jr. Ed.D
Mayor

ATTEST:

Christina Burke
Town Clerk, NCCMC