

RESOLUTION 2008-26889

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE APPROVAL OF OFF-SHORE OIL DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO IN AREAS OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY APPROVED FOR OIL LEASING AND OIL EXPLORATION.

WHEREAS, the Congressional ban on off shore oil drilling, which has been in effect since 1981, was put in place to reduce the chances of environmental damage from oil spills and to protect the tourist industry; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional ban states that no funds may be expended by the Department of the Interior for the conduct of offshore preleasing, leasing and related activities placed under restriction in the President's moratorium statement of June 12, 1998, in the areas of northern, central, and southern California; the North Atlantic; Washington and Oregon; and the eastern Gulf of Mexico south of 26 degrees N latitude and east of 86 degrees W longitude"; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Energy Department's forecasting arm has said opening the Pacific, Atlantic and eastern Gulf of Mexico regions to drilling would not have a significant impact on domestic crude oil and natural gas production or prices before the year 2030.

WHEREAS, the area with the potential for the greatest risk of environmental damage is the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico, off the western coast of Florida; and

WHEREAS, environmental specialists contend the major risk from drilling platforms is the wastewater they routinely discharge that contain drilling fluids and heavy metals including mercury; and

WHEREAS, according to Oil Industry data, an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico can dump up to 90,000 tons of drilling fluid and metal cuttings over its lifetime. These contaminants accumulate in the marine food web and might contaminate local beaches and have a negative effect on the environment and the tourism industry; and


WHEREAS, it is our belief that despite technological advances in oil rig drilling technology, there is no positive assurance that catastrophic damage to our coastline, beaches, plant and fish life could be avoided during normal operating conditions or during storm situations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA that the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Miami Beach, Florida, highly encourage all elected officials at the County, State and Federal levels to oppose legislative attempts to allow off shore oil drilling expansion past the areas already approved for pre-leasing, leasing and oil production activities.


PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of September, 2008.

ATTEST:


MAYOR
Matti Herrera Bower


CITY CLERK
Robert Parcher

Approved as to form and
language and for execution


CITY ATTORNEY

9/2/08
Dated



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY, Jose Smith, City Attorney
Interoffice Memorandum

To: Mayor and Members of the City Commission

Date: September 10, 2008

From: Jose Smith, City Attorney

Subject: Resolution against more off shore oil drilling in Gulf of Mexico

The attached resolution is submitted for the September 10, 2008 agenda at the request of Commissioner Saul Gross.

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Agenda Item R9J
Date 9-10-08



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

FROM: Saul Gross, City Commissioner *SG*

DATE: September 3, 2009

SUBJECT: Agenda Item

Next week the US Congress is expected to debate the issue of off shore oil drilling.

Attached is a draft of a resolution of the Miami Beach City Commission opposing the approval of off shore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico in areas other than those already approved for oil leasing and oil exploration.

Please place this item for action on the agenda of the September 10, 2008 Commission Meeting.

Thank you.

SG/wo

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH OPPOSING THE APPROVAL OF OFF SHORE OIL DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO IN AREAS OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY APPROVED FOR OIL LEASING AND OIL EXPLORATION

WHEREAS, the Congressional ban on off shore oil drilling, which has been in effect since 1981, was put in place to reduce the chances of environmental damage from oil spills and to protect the tourist industry.

WHEREAS, the Congressional ban states that no funds may be expended by the Department of the Interior for the conduct of offshore preleasing, leasing and related activities placed under restriction in the President's moratorium statement of June 12, 1998, in the areas of northern, central, and southern California; the North Atlantic; Washington and Oregon; and the eastern Gulf of Mexico south of 26 degrees N latitude and east of 86 degrees W longitude".

WHEREAS, the US Energy Department's forecasting arm has said opening the Pacific, Atlantic and eastern Gulf of Mexico regions to drilling would not have a significant impact on domestic crude oil and natural gas production or prices before the year 2030.

WHEREAS, the area with the potential for the greatest risk of environmental damage is the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico, off the western coast of Florida.

WHEREAS, environmental specialists contend the major risk from drilling platforms is the wastewater they routinely discharge which contain drilling fluids and heavy metals including mercury.

WHEREAS, According to Oil Industry data, an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico can dump up to 90,000 tons of drilling fluid and metal cuttings over its lifetime. These contaminants accumulate in the marine food web and might contaminate local beaches and have a negative effect on the environment and the tourism industry.

WHEREAS, it is our belief that despite technological advances in oil rig drilling technology, there is no positive assurance that catastrophic damage to our coastline, beaches, plant and fish life could be avoided during normal operating conditions or during storm situations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Miami Beach highly encourages all elected officials at the County, State and Federal levels to oppose legislative attempts to allow off shore oil drilling expansion past the areas already approved for pre-leasing, leasing and oil production activities.

The above and foregoing Resolution was duly approved and adopted at a regular City of Miami Beach Commission meeting held on the 10th day of September 2008.