

SANTA FE LAKE DWELLERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2010-07-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA FE LAKE DWELLERS INCORPORATED, OPPOSING THE APPROVAL OF OFFSHORE DRILLING IN WATERS OFF FLORIDA'S COASTLINE; CALLING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE AND UNBIASED STUDY THAT EXAMINES THE SHORT AND LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS THIS ACTIVITY MAY HAVE ON THE STATE OF FLORIDA

WHEREAS, over fifty-five (55) Florida cities, counties, chambers of commerce, local agencies and organizations around the state have passed resolutions or drafted letters opposing oil drilling; and

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

WHEREAS, tourism accounts for one-third of Florida's budget revenues, which consisted of more than 82 million visitors coming to Florida in 2008, generating over \$4.0 billion in taxable revenue sales; and

WHEREAS, 96% of tourism visitors cite our pristine beaches as an influential factor in their decision to visit Florida and tourist tax collection statewide exceeded \$513,385,000.00 in FY 2007, employing more than one million Floridians in businesses that directly or indirectly support tourism, with a payroll of \$16 billion; and

WHEREAS, according to industry data, an oil rig can dump up to 90,000 tons of drilling fluid and metal cuttings and heavy metals including mercury over its lifetime. These contaminants accumulate in the marine food web and could reasonably be expected to contaminate local beaches and have a negative effect on the environment and tourism industry; and

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WHEREAS, despite technological advances there is no iron-clad assurance that catastrophic damage to our coastline, beaches, plant and fish life can be avoided - whether from drilling mud's, regular production and transport, or from accidental oil spills during normal operating conditions or storms and hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, any purported economic benefits, at the pump or otherwise, have not been factually determined and drilling off Florida's coasts, within no more than ten (10) miles from the coastline, fail to take into account the substantial risks to Florida's tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, drilling rigs, pipelines, storage facilities, vessels and other infrastructure in and on Florida land and waters would be in direct conflict with the world-class beaches that are the basis

of Florida's tourism and economy which is also critical to the continued funding of essential governmental services such as transportation, schools and public safety; and

WHEREAS, hurricanes in Florida are a fact of life and can result in spills - as did Hurricanes Katrina and Rita near Louisiana in 2005 where hundreds of platforms and pipelines were destroyed and nearly three-quarters of a million gallons of oil and petroleum products were spilled from rigs, pipelines and platforms; and

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2009, a major oil spill began spewing oil into ocean waters off the western coast of Australia, spreading some 6,000 miles by September 14, 2009 - this was a state-of-the-art system claimed to be the same technology that would be used in Florida waters; and

WHEREAS, in 1993 the residents, businesses and visitors of Treasure Island and other nearby barrier island communities experienced first-hand the devastating health, economic, environmental and recreational impacts resulting from a so-called "minor spill" of 362,000 gallons of oil and fuel in Tampa Bay; and

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WHEREAS, Florida citizens and some state legislators have been led to believe that drilling is needed immediately to lower the price of gasoline and to eliminate our dependence on foreign oil - when the facts demonstrate that it would be years before production would begin and decades before alleged production volumes would be achieved, and the volumes projected by recent scientific estimates show that the effect on gas prices and our country's dependence on foreign oil would be negligible; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the board of directors of the aforementioned organization that:

Our board does hereby strongly oppose legislative attempts to allow off shore drilling in any of the waters under the jurisdiction of the State of Florida; we urge you to call for a comprehensive and unbiased scientific study before any consideration of oil drilling legislation is considered; and we ask you to join us in encouraging and assisting in the development of alternative, renewable sources of fuel and energy.

Resolution 2010-07-04 adopted on this 7th day of April, 2010

*Terry Brant*

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