

RESOLUTION NO. 10-2009

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEMINOLE, FLORIDA, OPPOSING OFFSHORE DRILLING IN STATE CONTROLLED WATERS OFF THE COASTLINE OF FLORIDA; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the oil drilling economic benefits fail to take into account the risks to Florida's tourism industry due to offshore drilling rigs, pipelines, storage facilities, vessels and other infrastructure in and on Florida land and waters that are in direct visual, physical and environmental conflict with the world-class beaches that are the basis of Florida's tourism and economy; and

WHEREAS, despite technological advances in oil rig drilling technology, there is no positive assurance that catastrophic damage to our coastline, beaches, plant and fish life can be avoided—whether from drilling mud containing heavy metals such as mercury, regular production, or accidental oil spills—and whether during normal operating conditions or during storm situations; and

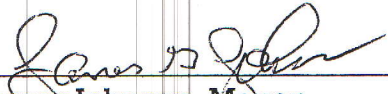
WHEREAS, in 1993 Pinellas County learned how environmentally and economically destructive an oil spill can be when a vessel collision at the entrance to Tampa Bay resulted in a spill of more than 300,000 gallons that reached Pinellas beaches as far away as 14 miles and resulted in a 45% drop in tourism and a \$5 billion economic loss over the following two years; and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling spills are a significant threat to the beaches that 95% of Pinellas tourists say are one of the top reasons they come to Florida, to Pinellas County's tourism expenditures that amount to \$6.6 billion annually, to the State of Florida's tourism that amounts to \$60 billion annually; and that spills can be carried by Gulf of Mexico currents to miles of coastline on both the east and west coasts of Florida; and

WHEREAS, given that Florida waters extend no more than 10 miles from the coastline, drilling rigs of any size would be seen on the horizon in the daytime, in the sunset and especially at night; and

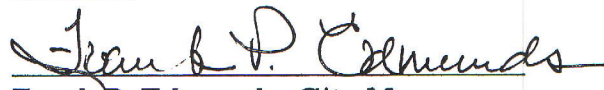
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEMINOLE, FLORIDA, to oppose legislative attempts to allow offshore oil drilling in any of the waters under the jurisdiction of the State of Florida, and that we encourage all elected officials at the County, State and Federal levels to join us in our opposition, as well as in our efforts to encourage and assist in the development of alternate sources of energy.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of October, 2009, by the City Council of the City of Seminole, Florida.



James Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:



Frank P. Edmunds, City Manager