

**RESOLUTION NO. 022 - 2018**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA OPPOSING THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF OIL DRILLING IN THE EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO, THE FLORIDA STRAITS AND THE SOUTH ATLANTIC, AND SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE CURRENT MORATORIUM ON DRILLING IN THE EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO BEYOND 2022; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Ocean Management (BOEM) develops the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Leasing Program and establishes 5 year programs that specify the size, timing and location of potential drilling leasing activity, and was directed by Executive Order to initiate a process to develop a new National OCS program for 2019-2024; and

**WHEREAS**, BOEM drafted and released on January 4, 2018 a proposed new OCS program that opens new drilling leases throughout the entire coastal United States and Alaska, and will, per the US Department of Interior's own press release, *"make over 90% of the total OCS acreage and more than 98% of undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources in federal offshore areas available to consider for future exploration and development. By comparison, the current program puts 94 percent of the OCS off limits. In addition, the program proposes the largest number of lease sales in U.S. history;"* and

**WHEREAS**, specifically relevant for Monroe County, the proposed program opens up leases in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, the Florida Straits, and the South Atlantic. Currently there is a moratorium on leases in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico through 2022. This is the first time the majority of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico area would be available for leasing since 1988; and

**WHEREAS**, Monroe County, aka *"The Florida Keys,"* is a series of islands nestled between the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, the Florida Straits and the Atlantic Ocean, and whose coastline encompasses the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary ("FKNMS") and the Everglades National Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the unique marine ecosystem of the Florida Keys is home to the only living coral reef in the continental United States and the largest documented sea grass bed in the world, and supports more than 6,000 species of fishes, invertebrates, and plants and provides critical spawning habitats to a multitude of recreational and commercial migratory, endemic, coastal and pelagic finfish and shellfish, and unparalleled support to fisheries of the entire Gulf of Mexico; Monroe County's nearshore waters alone provide habitat for 80 percent of the fish species in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gulf's marine environment provides the foundation for robust local and regional economic activity, primarily tourism and recreational and commercial fishery industries that generate more than 70,000 jobs and more than \$6 billion annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico killed 11 people and caused the largest marine oil spill in U.S. history, spilling almost 5 million barrels of oil over 84 straight days, and oiling more than 1,000 linear miles of shoreline and habitat, killing an estimated 1 million birds and thousands of sea turtles and dolphins, extensively damaging deep sea coral communities, and killing and contaminating untold numbers of fish, shrimp and oysters; and

**WHEREAS**, oil drilling activity in the Gulf of Mexico, and accidents such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, are incompatible with protecting the Gulf's environmental resources and clean and healthy waters that the State of Florida and its coastal communities, such as the Florida Keys, are so economically dependent upon; and

**WHEREAS**, located in the eastern Gulf of Mexico is the Joint Gulf Range Complex, a critical military testing and training zone, whose national defense activities are incompatible with drilling activity; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2006 Congress passed the Gulf of Mexico Energy and Security Act (P.L. 109-432) creating a moratorium on drilling in most of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of the Interior has announced its intention to lift the moratorium and open up 73 million acres in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico for sale for oil and gas drilling; and

**WHEREAS**, Monroe County's citizens have, on numerous previous occasions, expressed opposition to offshore oil drilling in waters in and about the Florida Keys with *Resolution Nos. 111-2017, 136-2010, 223-2008, 139-2006, 178-1988 and 203-1987*, and

**WHEREAS**, Monroe County's citizens remain strongly opposed to lifting the moratorium and any new offshore oil and gas leasing, exploration, drilling activity and seismic inventories affecting Florida's coast, and continue to support the strongest possible protections for Florida and its invaluable environmental resources from the impacts of offshore oil and gas exploration;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLOIRDA:**

**Section 1.** The above recitals are hereby incorporated into this resolution as restated herein and constitute the legislative findings and intent of the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida.

**Section 2.** The Clerk for this Board shall furnish copies of this resolution to:

- U.S. Senator Bill Nelson
- U.S. Senator Marco Rubio
- U.S. Representative Carlos Curbelo, District 26
- Florida Governor Rick Scott
- Florida Senate President Joe Negron

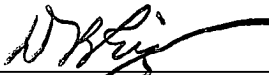
- Florida House Speaker Richard Corcoran
- State Senator Anitere Flores, District 39
- State Representative Holly Raschein, District 120
- U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke
- Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Noah Valenstein

**Section 3.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at a regular meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018.

Mayor David Rice	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Pro Tem Sylvia Murphy	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Heather Carruthers	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Danny Kolhage	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner George Neugent	<u>Yes</u>

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

BY:   
Mayor David Rice



**ATTEST: KEVIN MADOK, CLERK**

By:   
Deputy Clerk

FILED FOR RECORD

2018 JAN 22 AM 11:55

CLERK CIR. CT.  
MONROE COUNTY, FL

**MONROE COUNTY ATTORNEY  
APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
ROBERT B. SHILLINGER, JR.  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

Date 1/17/18



**Kevin Madok, CPA**

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

January 22, 2018

Honorable Senator Bill Nelson  
716 Senate Hart Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510

Honorable Senator Nelson,

Attached is a copy of Resolution No. 022-2018 opposing the proposed expansion of oil drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, the Florida Straits and the South Atlantic, and supporting the continuation of the current moratorium on drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico beyond 2022; and providing an effective date.

This Resolution was adopted by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners at a regular meeting, held in formal session, on January 17, 2018. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (305) 292-3550.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Madok, CPA, Clerk of the  
Circuit Court and ex-officio to the  
Monroe County Board of County  
Commissioners

*By: Pamela G. Hancock, D.C.*

cc: File

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KEY WEST  
500 Whitehead Street  
Key West, Florida 33040  
305-294-4641

MARATHON  
3117 Overseas Highway  
Marathon, Florida 33050  
305-289-6027

PLANTATION KEY  
88820 Overseas Highway  
Plantation Key, Florida 33070  
305-852-7145

PK/ROTH BUILDING  
50 High Point Road  
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305-852-7145



**Kevin Madok, CPA**

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

January 22, 2018

Honorable Senator Marco Rubio  
284 Russell Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510

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**Kevin Madok, CPA**

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

January 22, 2018

Honorable Representative Carlos Curbelo  
1404 Longworth House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

Honorable Representative Curbelo,

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## Kevin Madok, CPA

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Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

January 22, 2018

Office of Governor Rick Scott  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S Monroe Street  
Tallahassee FL 32399-0001

Honorable Governor Scott,

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Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

January 22, 2018

Senate President Joe Negron  
305 Senate Office Building  
404 S Monroe Street  
Tallahassee FL 32399-1100

Honorable Senator Negron,

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Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

January 22, 2018

Senator Anitere Flores  
404 Senate Office Building  
402 S Monroe Street  
Tallahassee FL 32399-1300

Honorable Representative Flores,

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**Kevin Madok, CPA**

Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

January 22, 2018

Representative Richard Corcoran  
Speaker of the House  
420 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee FL 32399-1300

Honorable Representative Corcoran,

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Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

January 22, 2018

Representative Holly Raschein  
209 House Office Building  
402 S Monroe Street  
Tallahassee FL 32399-1300

Honorable Representative Raschein,

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Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller – Monroe County, Florida

January 22, 2018

Secretary Ryan Matthews  
Florida DEP, Office of the Secretary  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee FL 32399

Dear Mr. Matthews,

Attached is a copy of Resolution No. 022-2018 opposing the proposed expansion of oil drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, the Florida Straits and the South Atlantic, and supporting the continuation of the current moratorium on drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico beyond 2022; and providing an effective date.

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