

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)

TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: October 7, 2008

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution supporting the
continuation of the Federal
moratorium on offshore oil
and gas drilling to protect
Florida's coast and tourism-
related industry

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Katy Sorenson.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Bruno A. Barreiro
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

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Please note any items checked.

- "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Bid waiver requiring County Manager's written recommendation
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- No committee review

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(11)
10-7-08

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF THE
FEDERAL MORATORIUM ON OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS
DRILLING TO PROTECT FLORIDA'S COAST AND
TOURISM-RELATED INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, a Congressional moratorium on offshore oil and gas drilling was first enacted in 1982, and has been renewed every year since; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional moratorium was supplemented by the executive orders of the first President Bush and President Clinton in 1990 and 1998, respectively, which directed the Interior Department not to conduct offshore leasing activity in areas covered by the moratorium until 2012; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Congressional Delegation has steadfastly and successfully opposed efforts to allow oil and gas drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico, due to the threat that pollution poses to beaches vital to Florida's environment and tourism-related economy; and

WHEREAS, in response to increasing gas prices President Bush recently called upon Congress to end the longstanding moratorium on offshore oil drilling; and

WHEREAS, it would take several years before any offshore drilling could begin and the federal Energy Information Administration estimates that lifting the moratorium would have no effect on gas prices before 2030 and that effect would be minimal at best; and

WHEREAS, the United States controls less than three percent of global oil and gas deposits, while consuming twenty five percent of the world's fossil energy, the amounts of oil and gas in these offshore reserves is so small relative to the world supply that Florida's potential contribution to domestic oil production will have close to no effect on prices and will not break our reliance on foreign sources of oil; and

WHEREAS, the threats posed by offshore drilling spills to Florida's environment and tourism-related economy far exceed the remote benefits to be gained from such expensive and perilous offshore activities; and

WHEREAS, given that 68 million acres of existing Federal oil leases have not been tapped, and that there is increasing evidence that the deregulation of oil commodities trading has more to do with the spiraling price of crude oil than supply and demand concerns; and

WHEREAS, an aggressive energy policy that focused on energy efficiency and renewable alternative energy resources would be a far more effective and long-lasting approach to our energy needs with the potential to create thousands of good paying renewable energy jobs in Florida,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the U.S. Congress to continue the longstanding federal moratorium on offshore oil and gas drilling and to instead direct federal resources towards more meaningful long-term solutions for our energy needs, such as conservation measures and development of alternative energy sources.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to Senator Bill Nelson, Senator Mel Martinez, the remaining members of the Miami-Dade County Congressional Delegation, Governor Charlie Crist and the chair and members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 3. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the continuation of the federal moratorium on offshore oil and gas drilling.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Katy Sorenson. It was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman	
Barbara J. Jordan, Vice-Chairwoman	
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	Audrey M. Edmonson
Carlos A. Gimenez	Sally A. Heyman
Joe A. Martinez	Dennis C. Moss
Dorrin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 7th day of October, 2008. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Robert A. Duvall