

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)

TO: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 18, 2010

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

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/jls



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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Please note any items checked.

- "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
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(2)

5-18-10

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; URGING CONGRESS NOT TO ALLOW FOR SUCH OFFSHORE DRILLING; OPPOSING ANY EFFORT BY THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING NEAR THE FLORIDA COAST

WHEREAS, a Congressional moratorium on offshore oil and gas drilling was first enacted in 1982; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional moratorium was supplemented by 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, in 2006, Congress passed the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA), which prohibits the leasing of federal submerged lands for the purpose of producing oil and natural gas in the Gulf of Mexico within 125 miles of the Florida coastline; and

WHEREAS, the prohibition included in GOMESA expires on June 30, 2022, but it may be changed by federal legislation at any time; and

WHEREAS, in March, 2010, President Barack Obama proposed to open additional areas of the U.S. coastline to oil and gas drilling, including the eastern Gulf of Mexico near the Florida coastline; and

WHEREAS, during the 2010 legislative session, the Florida House of Representatives held hearings related to oil and gas drilling between three and ten miles from the Florida coast, with an eye toward passing legislation allowing for such drilling during the 2011 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, until very recently, oil drilling was one of the main legislative priorities of the incoming President of the Florida Senate and Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives for the 2011 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, the explosion and fire on the “Deepwater Horizon” oil platform that started on April 20, 2010 and claimed 11 lives, has already poured millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico and has not been contained many weeks after the accident; and

WHEREAS, the “Deepwater Horizon” disaster comes only weeks after a pipeline break coated 16 square miles of the Delta National Wildlife Refuge with oil and created a slick 120 miles in area in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed 167 oil platforms and, according to reports from the U.S. Coast Guard after the storms, led to more than 6 million gallons of petroleum discharged from damaged refineries, industrial facilities, and ruptured pipelines in Louisiana alone; and

WHEREAS, contamination from oil accidents are exceedingly difficult to clean up, causing long-lasting damage to coastal environments as shown by the Exxon Valdez tanker spill in 1989 which still impacts the coastline of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the “Deepwater Horizon” disaster has reinforced the capacity of the Gulf Loop Current to sweep pollution from the Gulf of Mexico through the Florida Keys and even the coast of Miami-Dade County; and

WHEREAS, the tourism industry in Florida is already being impacted by the Gulf oil spill; and

WHEREAS, the proposed expansion of oil drilling in Federal waters would bring such activities even closer to the loop current in the Gulf of Mexico and into very active hurricane zones in the Atlantic; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. controls less than three percent of global oil and gas deposits, while consuming 25 percent of the world's fossil energy, the amounts of oil and gas in offshore reserves near the Florida coast is so small relative to domestic consumption that Florida's potential contribution to domestic oil production would have almost no effect on gasoline prices and would have a near negligible effect on U.S. 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, as the recent oil spill well illustrates; 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. Supports the continuation of the federal moratorium on offshore oil drilling to protect Florida's coast and tourism-related industries.

Section 2. 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 3. Opposes any effort by the Florida Legislature to pursue oil drilling in Florida coastal waters.

Section 4. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the members of the Miami-Dade County Congressional Delegation, Governor Charlie Crist, the Florida Senate President, the Florida House Speaker and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

Section 5. Directs the County's federal lobbyists to advocate for the continuation of the federal moratorium on offshore oil and gas drilling, directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate against any legislation opening up Florida coastal waters to offshore oil and gas drilling and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this issue in the 2010 and 2011 federal and state legislative packages.

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:

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

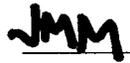
The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 18th day of May, 2010. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

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.



Jess M. McCarty