

## RESOLUTION 18-04

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH STRONGLY OPPOSING OFFSHORE OIL AND NATURAL GAS DRILLING IN THE EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO, SPECIFICALLY OPPOSING LANGUAGE PROPOSED IN UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL 4239, THE “SECURE AMERICAN ENERGY ACT”, WHICH WOULD EXPAND EXPLORATION AND DRILLING ACTIVITIES ALONG THE COAST OF FLORIDA, WOULD PLACE SEVERE LIMITATIONS ON PROTECTIONS FOR NATIONAL MARINE MONUMENTS AND MARINE RESOURCES, AND WOULD JUSTIFY IMPACTS TO MARINE MAMMALS ASSOCIATED WITH OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND DRILLING ACTIVITIES; URGING FLORIDA’S FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES TO REFRAIN FROM ANY FORM OF SUPPORT OR CO-SPONSORSHIP OF H.R. 4239 AND ANY FUTURE LEGISLATION EXPANDING OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION IN THE EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO AND TO VOTE IN OPPOSITION OF SUCH LEGISLATION; REQUESTING GOVERNOR SCOTT AND THE FLORIDA HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERSHIP TO OPPOSE SUCH LEGISLATION DURING THE 2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Fort Myers Beach is opposed to offshore and near-shore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, H.R. 4239 would expand offshore oil and natural gas exploration and drilling activities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, H.R. 4239 would terminate future Presidential authority to establish Marine National Monuments to protect critical marine resources, even when in the national interest; and

**WHEREAS**, H.R. 4239 eliminates several protections afforded to marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 19721, increasing the likelihood of incidental taking of marine mammals associated with oil and natural gas exploration and drilling activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Fort Myers Beach is a barrier island community located off the west coast of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, Fort Myers Beach’s pristine sandy beaches, productive mangrove-lined estuaries, lush seagrass beds, and world-class fisheries are the foundation of our local tourism-based economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Fort Myers Beach’s tourism-based economy was significantly impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that began on April 20, 2010 and continued for 87 days until capped on July 15, 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 20, 2010 Governor Charlie Christ amended Executive Order 10-99 to include Lee County for the state of emergency declaration due to the threat posed by oil leaking from the Deepwater Horizon drilling platform; and

**WHEREAS**, the source of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill was more than 400 miles from Fort Myers Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, offshore and near-shore drilling rigs and related infrastructure in the eastern Gulf of Mexico would adversely impact property values and tourism; and

**WHEREAS**, an oil spill in the eastern Gulf of Mexico would have sever and long-term impacts on the environment, the local economy, and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the potential adverse environmental and economic impacts of oil exploration and drilling activities within the eastern Gulf of Mexico far outweigh the benefits.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Fort Myers Beach, Florida, that:

**SECTION 1.** For the reasons stated hereinabove, the Town of Fort Myers Beach hereby declares its opposition to H.R. 4239 and any proposed future legislation which would authorize oil and gas drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico and urges Florida’s state and federal representatives to refrain from any form of support or co-sponsorship of such proposed future legislation and to vote in opposition to any such legislation.

**SECTION 2.** The Town Council requests Governor Scott to strongly oppose such legislation and to advise the leadership of the Florida House and Senate during the 2018 Legislative Session that he does not support any proposed future legislation which would authorize oil and gas drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

**SECTION 3.** Effective date.

**THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION** was adopted by the Town Council upon a motion by Council Member Cereceda and seconded by Council Member Shamp and upon being put to a vote, the result was as follows:

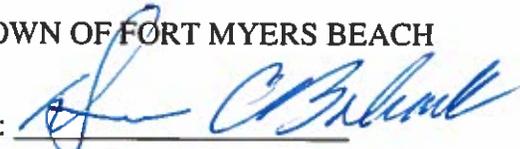
|                                |     |                               |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|-----|
| Dennis C. Boback, Mayor        | aye | Tracey Gore, Vice Mayor       | aye |
| Anita Cereceda, Council Member | aye | Bruce Butcher, Council Member | aye |
| Joanne Shamp, Council Member   | aye |                               |     |

**DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THIS 20th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2018.**

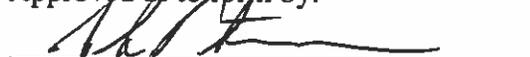
ATTEST:

TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH

By:   
Michelle D. Mayher, Town Clerk

by:   
Dennis C. Boback, Mayor

Approved as to form by:

  
Peterson Law Group, Town Attorney