

By Senator Bennett

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Senate Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 7 of Article II of the State Constitution to prohibit drilling for oil or natural gas within sovereignty submerged lands of the state and within a specified distance offshore and to direct the Legislature to enact legislation to enforce the prohibition.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

That the following amendment to Section 7 of Article II of the State Constitution is agreed to and shall be submitted to the electors of this state for approval or rejection at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose:

ARTICLE II

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 7. Natural resources and scenic beauty.--

(a) It shall be the policy of the state to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty. Adequate provision shall be made by law for the abatement of air and water pollution and of excessive and unnecessary noise and for the conservation and protection of natural resources.

(b) Those in the Everglades Agricultural Area who cause water pollution within the Everglades Protection Area or the Everglades Agricultural Area shall be primarily responsible for paying the costs of the abatement of that pollution. For the purposes of this subsection, the terms "Everglades Protection Area" and "Everglades Agricultural

1 Area" shall have the meanings as defined in statutes in effect  
2 on January 1, 1996.

3 (c) Drilling for oil or natural gas is prohibited  
4 within sovereignty submerged lands bordering on the Atlantic  
5 Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Straits of Florida and  
6 within 250 miles waterward of the coastline to the maximum  
7 extent allowed by the laws of the United States. The  
8 legislature shall enact legislation to enforce this  
9 subsection.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following statement be  
11 placed on the ballot:

12 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

13 ARTICLE II, SECTION 7

14 DRILLING FOR OIL OR NATURAL GAS WITHIN COASTAL WATERS  
15 PROHIBITED.--Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution  
16 to prohibit drilling for oil or natural gas within sovereignty  
17 submerged lands of the state and within 250 miles waterward of  
18 the coastline to the maximum extent allowed by the laws of the  
19 United States and to direct the Legislature to enact  
20 legislation enforcing this prohibition.

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