HJR 631 2007

House 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.

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

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14 15 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:

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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"

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

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

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

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

ARTICLE II, SECTION 7

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