

HJR 23

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House Joint Resolution

A joint resolution proposing an amendment to Section 7 of Article II of the State Constitution to prohibit the exploration, drilling, extraction, or production of oil beneath Florida waters between the mean high-water line and the seaward limit of Florida's boundaries.

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:

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 Area" shall have the meanings

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29 as defined in statutes in effect on January 1, 1996.

30 (c) The exploration for, the drilling for, the extraction
 31 of, or the production of oil is prohibited in and beneath all
 32 Florida waters located between the mean high-water line along
 33 the coastline of Florida and the seaward limit of Florida as now
 34 or hereafter fixed by this constitution or the Congress of the
 35 United States, whichever such boundary is farther from the
 36 coastline. This prohibition does not apply to the transportation
 37 of oil produced outside these waters. This subsection is self-
 38 executing.

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

41 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

42 ARTICLE II, SECTION 7

43 BAN OF EXPLORATION, DRILLING, EXTRACTION, AND PRODUCTION OF
 44 OIL IN FLORIDA TERRITORIAL SEAS.—This amendment to the State
 45 Constitution prohibits the exploration for, the drilling for,
 46 the extraction of, and the production of oil in and beneath all
 47 Florida waters between the mean high-water line and the seaward
 48 limit of Florida as now or hereafter fixed, whichever boundary
 49 is farther from the coastline. This amendment is self-executing
 50 and does not apply to the transportation of oil produced outside
 51 Florida's territorial waters.