

By Senator Farmer

34-03725-20

20201922__

Senate Resolution

A resolution expressing the Senate's opposition to the Federal Government's interest in using harmful offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration practices off the Florida coast.

WHEREAS, the Federal Government has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean and the eastern portion of the Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas exploration and development, including plans to use risky methods such as seismic airgun blasting, and

WHEREAS, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean, every 10-12 seconds for days, weeks, or months on end, and

WHEREAS, seismic airgun noise has been shown to harm and injure dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life, and

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling and the extraction and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose significant risks of oil spills and chronic leakage to this state, and

WHEREAS, eventual offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of the Florida coast, and

WHEREAS, offshore drilling activities threaten this state's treasured vacation destinations along the Florida coast which are of intrinsic economic value to numerous industries, and such activities threaten the essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries and the

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30 natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes which such areas
31 provide, and

32 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that the tourism and
33 fishing industries, which depend on a healthy and vibrant
34 coastal environment, both serve as major economic drivers
35 benefiting current and future residents, property owners, and
36 visitors to this state, and

37 WHEREAS, the Legislature endeavors to be a good steward of
38 this state's environment and its resources, and

39 WHEREAS, the exploration and development of oil and gas
40 resources off the Florida coast will not effectively address the
41 long-term energy needs of our country, and

42 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that it would be more
43 economically and ecologically responsible to pursue nonpolluting
44 sources of renewable energy, such as solar and wind, which pose
45 less risk to the coastal environment and economic health, before
46 using uncertain methods of seismic airgun blasting to explore
47 and develop offshore oil and gas deposits, NOW, THEREFORE,

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49 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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51 That the Senate recognizes that offshore oil and gas
52 drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting,
53 will put this state's environment, beaches, marine resources,
54 and local economies at risk and expresses its opposition to the
55 Federal Government's interest in pursuing such practices off the
56 Florida coast.