

CITY OF SANIBEL

RESOLUTION 10-010

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SANIBEL OPPOSING OFFSHORE OIL AND NATURAL GAS DRILLING IN THE EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO AND SPECIFICALLY OPPOSING ANY FUTURE LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD ALLOW NEAR-SHORE DRILLING FROM THREE TO NINE MILES OFF OF THE FLORIDA COAST; URGING FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES TO REFRAIN FROM ANY FORM OF SUPPORT OR CO-SPONSORSHIP OF ANY SUCH FUTURE LEGISLATION AND TO VOTE IN OPPOSITION OF SUCH LEGISLATION; REQUESTING GOVERNOR CRIST TO ADVISE THE HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERSHIP DURING THE 2010 REGULAR SESSION THAT HE DOES NOT SUPPORT ANY SUCH FUTURE LEGISLATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Sanibel is opposed to offshore and near-shore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, there is on-going discussion and concern that the Florida State Legislature may, during the upcoming legislative session, consider legislation which would specifically allow near-shore oil and natural gas drilling from three to nine miles off the west coast of Florida from the Apalachicola area in the Florida Panhandle south to the area of Key West; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sanibel is an island community located on the west coast of Florida and the potential damage to Sanibel's beaches and mangrove coastline should a spill or accident occur would not only be devastating to the tourism, environment, plant and fish life of Florida's west coast, but the cleanup costs of such spill or accident would be disastrous to the City of Sanibel; and

WHEREAS, Sanibel Island cherishes its pristine beaches that are critical for marine turtle nesting and shore bird nesting including that of threatened species such as the Snowy Plover and Least Tern; and

WHEREAS, the mangrove forest and shallow seagrass beds that line the hundreds of square miles of our inshore estuaries are essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries and would be impossible to clean should an oil spill occur; and

WHEREAS, according to Oil Industry data, an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico can dump up to 90,000 tons of drilling fluid and metal cuttings over the lifetime of the oil rig. These contaminants accumulate in the marine food system and may contaminate local beaches and have serious negative effects on the environment and tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, the location of offshore and near-shore drilling rigs and related infrastructure such as drilling platforms would adversely impact the view from the beaches on Sanibel Island causing detrimental impacts to its tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, there are no reasonable assurances that catastrophic damage to our coastline, beaches, plant and fish life could be avoided during normal operating conditions of oil rigs or during storm catastrophies from foreseeable hurricanes and other natural and man made disasters; and

WHEREAS, as an additional and independent concern, oil and gas drilling structures are incompatible with and pose a concern for low flying military aircraft engaged in training and test flights from military bases in northwest Florida;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Sanibel, Florida, that:

SECTION 1. For the reasons stated hereinabove, the Sanibel City Council hereby declares its opposition to any proposed future legislation which would approve oil and gas drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico including, but not limited to, oil and gas drilling within three to nine miles off of the Florida coast, and urges the Florida Legislature to refrain from any form of support or co-sponsorship of such proposed future legislation and to vote in opposition to any such legislation.

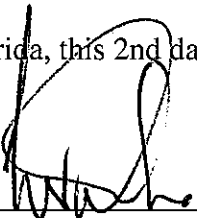
SECTION 2. The City Council requests Governor Crist to strongly consider advising the leadership of the House and Senate during the 2010 Regular Session that he does not support any proposed future legislation which would approve oil and gas drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico.

SECTION 3. Effective date.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

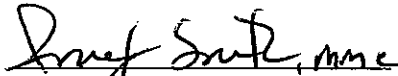
DULY PASSED AND ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Sanibel,

Florida, this 2nd day of February, 2010.

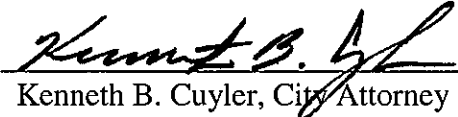


Mick Denham, Mayor

AUTHENTICATION:



Pamela Smith, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: 
Kenneth B. Cuyler, City Attorney

2/1/10
Date

Vote of Council Members:

Denham	<u>yea</u>
Ruane	<u>yea</u>
Harrity	<u>yea</u>
Jennings	<u>yea</u>
Pappas	<u>yea</u>

Date filed with City Clerk: February 2, 2010