



**A Resolution  
of the  
Bay County Chamber of Commerce**

**A Resolution of the Bay County Chamber of Commerce opposing any expansion of offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico within or east of the Military Mission Line**

**WHEREAS**, the Bay County Chamber of Commerce is fully cognizant of the fact that due to increasing energy costs, there is a need to seek alternative energy sources and to increase domestic offshore drilling, without endangering our environment or the mission of our military in Northwest Florida;


**WHEREAS**, the preservation and conservation of its natural resources is critical to Northwest Florida's environment and economic future; and

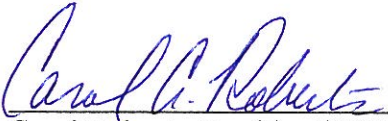
**WHEREAS**, the activity associated with offshore oil exploration, drilling and construction of pipelines or platforms would severely impact the critical military test and training missions conducted by the Navy, Air Force, Army and Marine Corps which rely on the subsurface, surface and airspace range areas of the Gulf of Mexico;

**WHEREAS**, the Gulf of Mexico range, referred to by the Department of Defense as a national treasure, is essential to our nation's defense and provides a unique competitive advantage for Northwest Florida installations in securing and retaining important military missions.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Bay County Chamber of Commerce strongly opposes any amendment to the National Security Energy Act that would allow expansion of any offshore drilling above or below the surface of the Gulf of Mexico within and east of the Military Mission Line as it would severely impact the extensive daily use of this area for diverse missions, including flight test and training, maritime surface, subsurface, research, development, test and evaluation of systems and training of war fighters in direct support of National Defense now and in the future.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of the Bay County Chamber of Commerce on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2009.

  
Sean McNeil, Chairman of Board  
Bay County Chamber of Commerce

  
Carol Roberts, President/CEO  
Bay County Chamber of Commerce