

A resolution of the city of St. Petersburg opposing the expansion of offshore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, requesting the

Florida Legislature not take this up in a special session this November.

WHEREAS, tourism accounts for one third of our budget revenues statewide and 96% of those visitors cite the beaches as an

influential factor in their decision to visit Florida;and

WHEREAS, tourist tax collections exceeded \$513,000,000 in fiscal year 2007 and more than 91,000 Floridians are employed in businesses that directly or indirectly support tourism; and

WHEREAS, St. Petersburg's economy is heavily tied to clean beaches which then attract visitors to our businesses and art venues;

and

WHEREAS, half of our baseball stadium payments are directly made by tourist tax; and

WHEREAS, the oil industry lobby is proposing to place oil wells within three miles of our coasts and puts at risk our largest

industry and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the oil industry lobby is pushing for a special session in November in hopes of preying on the State's tight financial condition

to reverse a 28 year ban on oil drilling off our coast; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG:

1) Requests the Governor not call a special session of the Legislature in an attempt to rush through this proposal which risks St. Petersburg's economy and quality of live.

2) That before additional expansion of drilling areas in the Gulf of Mexico be considered, that the significant expansion recently allowed be explored.

3) The City of St. Petersburg will continue to take steps to become more energy efficient, add renewable energy projects and institute

efforts to encourage our citizens to do the same.

Passed and adopted this 10th day of September, 2009.