

RESOLUTION NO. 09-54

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE APPROVAL OF OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO IN AREAS OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY APPROVED FOR OIL LEASING AND OIL EXPLORATION.

WHEREAS, the Congressional ban on off shore oil drilling, which has been in effect since 1981, was put in place to reduce the chances of environmental damage from oil spills and to protect the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional ban states that no funds may be expended by the Department of the Interior for the conduct of offshore pre-leasing, leasing and related activities placed under restriction in the President's moratorium statement of June 12, 1998, in the areas of northern, central, and southern California; the North Atlantic; Washington and Oregon; and the eastern Gulf of Mexico south of 26 degrees N latitude and east of 86 degrees W longitude; and

WHEREAS, the US Energy Department's forecasting arm has said opening the Pacific, Atlantic and eastern Gulf of Mexico regions to drilling would not have a significant impact on domestic crude oil prices before the year 2030; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, House Bill 1219 was introduced into the Legislature of the State of Florida which would allow drilling for oil and gas to within three (3) miles of Florida's coastline (mean high tide line); and

WHEREAS, tourism accounts for one-third of Florida's budget revenues and 95% of the visitors to Pinellas County's barrier island beaches cite "white sandy beaches" and a "clean, unspoiled environment" as influential factors in their decision to visit; and

WHEREAS, tourism related to Pinellas County's barrier island beaches accounts for annual direct and indirect visitor expenditures of approximately \$7 billion; and

WHEREAS, the area with the potential for the greatest risk of environmental damage is in the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico, off the western coast of Florida; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, the residents, businesses and visitors of Treasure Island and other barrier island communities have experienced first hand the devastating health, economic, environmental and recreational impacts resulting from a "minor spill" of 362,000 gallons of oil and fuel in Tampa Bay; and

WHEREAS, it is our belief that despite technological advances in oil rig drilling technology, there is no positive assurance that catastrophic damage to our coastline, beaches, plant and fish life could be avoided during normal operating conditions or during storm situations.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND DOES RESOLVE:

That City encourage all elected officials at the County, State and Federal levels to oppose legislative attempts to allow off-shore oil drilling expansion in the eastern Gulf of Mexico past the areas already approved for pre-leasing, leasing and oil production activities and to take immediate steps to encourage and assist in the development of alternate sources of energy.

The foregoing Resolution was offered during regular session of the City Commission of the City of Treasure Island, Florida, sitting on the 4th day of August 2009, by Commissioner Bildz who moved its adoption; was seconded by Commissioner Gayton and upon roll call the vote was:

YEAS: Commissioners Bildz, Collins, Gayton, Coward, Mayor Minning

NAYS: None

ABSENT OR ABSTAINING: None

Robert Minning, Mayor

ATTEST:

Dawn Foss, City Clerk