



Florida's Great Northwest

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO EAST OF THE MILITARY MISSION LINE

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida is home to seven military installations, including Naval Air Station Pensacola, Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Duke Field, Hurlburt Field, Eglin Air Force Base, Naval Support Activity Panama City and Tyndall Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, the defense industry has a \$15 billion annual economic impact on Northwest Florida and employs more than 70,000 employees in the region; and

WHEREAS, former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, in response to inquiries from the Senate Armed Services Committee, stated that prior analysis and existing agreements with the Department of the Interior recognize that areas east of the 86° 41' line in the Gulf of Mexico (commonly known as the Military Mission Line) are especially critical to the Department of Defense due to the number of and diversity of military testing and training activities conducted there now and those planned for the future; and in those areas east of the Military Mission Line, drilling structures and associated development would be incompatible with military activities such as missile flights, low flying aircraft, weapons testing and training; and

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida's military installations all conduct training missions in this vast test range and protecting this significant air and sea space is vital to the region's present and future economic success;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Florida's Great Northwest, as follows:

1. Florida's Great Northwest, while not opposed to the exploration of alternative energy resources, strongly opposes offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line in that it will disrupt the planning area established by the Department of Defense for use by the United States Armed Services for military training and testing.
2. That a copy of this Resolution be provided to all elected officials representing Northwest Florida within the Florida Executive and Legislative branches and the United States Congress.

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED this 21st day of August, 2009.

Fred Leopold, Chairman

Kim Bodine, Secretary