

Resolution No.

A resolution of the Lee County Board of Commissioners in opposition to offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico within twenty five miles of the Lee County coastline and opposition specifically to passage of the Florida House of Representatives Bill 1219 that would allow near-shore oil drilling three (3) miles off of the Florida coast and authorizing the County Commission Chairman to transmit this resolution to the Governor and the Florida Legislature.

WHEREAS, Florida's economy depends on its multi-billion dollar tourism industry, which resulted in more than 82 million visitors coming to Florida in 2008, during which period tourism generated over \$65 billion in taxable sales; and

WHEREAS, tax revenues from tourism for Lee County during 2008 generated a \$78 million direct impact on local government revenues and a \$212 million direct impact on state government revenues and approximately 44,000 people directly employed, receiving nearly \$900 million in tourism wages; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas drilling in waters off the coast of Florida will increase the risk of oil pollution on Florida Beaches; and

WHEREAS, the risk to Florida's economy posed by oil and natural gas drilling off of Florida's coasts is substantial and even a small oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico could be devastating to our most important visitor amenities; and

WHEREAS, tax revenues generated from Florida's growing tourism industry are critical to continued funding of essential governmental services, including transportation, schools and public safety; and

WHEREAS, HB 1219, if passed by the State Legislature, and signed and implemented by the Governor, would permit the installation of oil rigs, pipelines, and drilling near the beaches and in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico and other areas of the Florida coastline; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS opposes offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico within 25 miles of the coastline and opposes specifically the passage of HB 1219 during the 2009 Legislative Session which allows drilling three (3) miles off the coast.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF LEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Governor Charlie Crist, Senate President Jeff Atwater, Speaker of the House, Larry Cretul, the Lee County legislative delegation and the Florida Association of Counties.

ROBERT JANES
A. BRIAN BIGELOW
RAY JUDAH
TAMMARA HALL
FRANK MANN

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ **DAY OF** _____, 2009.

ATTEST:
CHARLIE GREEN, CLERK

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

By: _____
Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: _____
Office of the County Attorney