



## TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

*Land Where Flight Began*

**A RESOLUTION  
REAFFIRMING THE TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING AND SEISMIC TESTING  
AND URGING THEIR PROHIBITION THROUGH JUNE 30, 2032**

WHEREAS, coastal North Carolina, including Dare County and the Town of Kill Devil Hills, realize enormous economic and environmental benefits from the Atlantic Ocean and in particular the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), which provides residents and visitors with unique opportunities to explore and realize careers and vacations possible only because of the OCS; and,

WHEREAS, commercial and recreational fishing added more than \$2 billion to the State of North Carolina's revenues in 2017, with \$97 million of wild-caught and shellfish caught commercially; and

WHEREAS, the coastal tourism industry generates more than \$3.5 billion annually, and in Dare County alone, tourism expenditures exceeded \$1 billion in Dare County in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Dare County, geographically the easternmost portion of the State of North Carolina, with more than 100 miles of oceanfront, is acutely sensitive to OCS surveying activities, including exploratory drilling and seismic testing which could damage beaches and coastline, potentially jeopardizing the livelihood of those who have gone to sea for generations; and

WHEREAS, there is no substantive evidence that offshore drilling and seismic testing can be safely conducted without risking catastrophic and irrevocable harm to Dare County's and North Carolina's coast, natural resources, properties, businesses, and overall quality of life of the entire coastal region; some studies indicate negative behavioral effects on migratory sea life and their breeding and feeding patterns from seismic activity alone; and

WHEREAS, because our coastal beaches and waters must be safeguarded for future generations, the Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners adopted its original *Resolution Opposing Offshore Exploratory Drilling Until Environmental Concerns of the People are Satisfied* on February 27, 1989; and reaffirmed that position on December 12, 1994; and, again, on April 8, 2013; June 9, 2014; April 13, 2015; February 12, 2018; April 8, 2019, and, most recently on December 9, 2019; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that local, state, and federal officials representing communities throughout coastal and mainland North Carolina, and our neighboring states join us, the Town of Kill Devil Hills, and other Dare County governing boards in taking a unified stand against offshore drilling and seismic testing; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2020, President Donald Trump signed a memorandum instructing the interior secretary to prohibit drilling in the waters off the coasts of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina through June 30, 2032;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KILL DEVIL HILLS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS that we stand for and in continued support of our unique coastal environment, our economy, our citizens, and our visitors by adopting this resolution urging North Carolina, our neighboring states, and all federal agencies to take immediate action to preserve our beautiful coast, environment, and its delicate ecosystem.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners urges the President, U.S. Congress, and federal agencies to include North Carolina in a prohibition of offshore drilling and seismic testing through June 30, 2032, and encourages all citizens and visitors to coastal North Carolina to contact their representatives in support of this moratorium.

This the 14<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020.

SEAL



Ben Sprout  
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Sprout", written over a horizontal line.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Michael O'Dell", written over a horizontal line.

James Michael O'Dell  
Deputy Town Clerk