



TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

Land Where Flight Began

MEMORANDUM

December 9, 2019

TO: KDH Board of Commissioners
FROM: Commissioner John Windley
REF: Commissioner's Agenda

1. A Resolution Expressing the Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners' Continued Opposition to Off-Shore Drilling (Attached COM-1)

For decades, the Town of Kill Devil Hills has expressed its opposition to off-shore drilling, seismic testing, and other actions that can harm our community's pristine waters and fragile coastal environment. With the new Board of Commissioners taking office, this *Resolution Expressing the Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners' Continued Opposition to Off-Shore Drilling* serves as an acknowledgement of this Board's continued opposition to off-shore drilling and a commitment to our commercial fishing and tourism industries, and our entire Outer Banks community.



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A RESOLUTION

REAFFIRMING THE TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING AND SEISMIC TESTING

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; and

WHEREAS, the coastal tourism industry generates more than \$3.5 billion annually, and in Dare County alone, tourism revenues 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, offshore drilling and testing have not been proven that they can safely be done 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; 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; and, most recently on April 8, 2019; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that local and state officials throughout 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;

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 no action that would put our beautiful coast at risk.

This the 9th day of December, 2019.

SEAL

Ben Sproul
Mayor

ATTEST:

James Michael O'Dell
Deputy Town Clerk