

Board of Commissioners

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Clerk to the Board
Rachel B. Hammer
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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR MCCRORY'S CONTINUED LEADERSHIP OF THE OCS GOVERNORS' COALITION AND EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE DIALOGUE ON OCS DEVELOPMENT ISSUES BETWEEN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has completed a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for seismic operations in the Atlantic Ocean and received several permit applications from companies seeking to conduct seismic surveys off the North Carolina coast;

WHEREAS, both the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the National Marine Fisheries Service have concluded that seismic surveys are safe and do not present any damage to marine mammal populations, have been conducted off of the North Carolina shore for academic and military purposes without damage to marine mammal populations, and will need to be done for offshore wind development projects;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has publicly stated that information gathered from seismic surveys will help them determine whether – and where – to hold future lease sales in the Mid-Atlantic OCS Region;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is currently considering whether to include portions of the Mid-Atlantic OCS Region (which includes portions of the Federal waters adjacent to North Carolina) in the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-22;

WHEREAS, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act specifically requires the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to give strong deference to the wishes of coastal states as expressed by their Governors;

WHEREAS, Governor McCrory currently serves as the Chairman of the Outer Continental Shelf Governors Coalition, which has been created to foster better dialogue between the Federal Government and State Governments on OCS development issues, to foster better dialogue among State governments on OCS development issues and to support efforts to develop more information on the potential resource base in the Federal OCS waters;

WHEREAS, the appreciation of our natural coastal and historical habitat, as well as commercial and recreational fishing are critical economic and quality of life drivers for Carteret County; and

WHEREAS, tourism is the economic backbone of Carteret County and offshore drilling activities and the potential for oil spills on our coastline poses a significant threat to our thriving tourism and the Carteret County tax base; and

WHEREAS, Carteret County endeavors to be a good steward of our coastal environment and its resources; and

WHEREAS, Carteret County believes that decisions on whether to include North Carolina in any potential OCS Oil and Natural Gas Leasing program should be based on sound science and a thorough understanding of the potential resource base in the Federal waters adjacent to North Carolina;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR CARTERET COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THAT:

Carteret County supports Governor McCrory's continued leadership of the OCS Governors Coalition and efforts to improve the dialogue on OCS development issues between the Federal Government and North Carolina and develop more information on the potential resource base in the Federal waters adjacent to North Carolina;

Carteret County urges Governor McCrory to support inclusion of the Federal waters adjacent to North Carolina in any future OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program only if the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management determines that any potential development can take place outside of a 50 mile buffer off of the North Carolina shore and can be conducted in an environmentally sound manner;

Carteret County urges the North Carolina Federal delegation to support Federal revenue sharing legislation that would give North Carolina a share of Federal OCS revenues consistent with the OCS revenue share program currently in place for the states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama; and


Carteret County urges Governor McCrory and the North Carolina Legislature to ensure that Carteret County and other coastal counties receive a fair portion of any revenues generated from offshore oil and natural gas development or receipts from a Federal revenue sharing program for coastal management and protection programs.

ADOPTED this the 16th day of November, 2016



Robin V. Comer, Chairman

ATTEST:



Rachel Hammer, Clerk to the Board