

## **Opposing New Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing**

### **CITY OF CLEARWATER**

#### **A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF NEW OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING OFF THE COAST OF FLORIDA IN THE FIVE-YEAR NATIONAL OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the economy of Clearwater depends heavily on a healthy coastal and marine environment, supporting industries such as tourism, recreation, commercial and recreational fishing, and related small businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, clean water, thriving ecosystems, and an attractive coastal environment are vital to maintaining property values, sustaining local businesses, and ensuring the quality of life for residents and visitors alike; and

**WHEREAS**, offshore oil and gas exploration, development, and drilling carry inherent risks, including oil spills, leaks, habitat destruction, and pollution, which could cause significant, long-term harm to our coastal economy, natural resources, and way of life; and

**WHEREAS**, seismic airgun blasting used in offshore oil and gas exploration poses a significant threat to marine life, including whales, dolphins, sea turtles, and fish stocks, by producing loud, repetitive underwater noise that can disrupt communication, navigation, reproduction, and foraging behavior; and

**WHEREAS**, the ecological damage caused by seismic testing undermines the health of marine ecosystems and directly threatens industries such as commercial and recreational fishing that depend on robust marine populations; and

**WHEREAS**, even the perception of environmental risk associated with offshore drilling can negatively impact tourism, investment, and business development in coastal areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is developing the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program and has requested public input on whether to include new offshore leasing areas; and

**WHEREAS**, the protection of our coastal environment and economy is a priority for Clearwater, and the long-term well-being of our community outweighs the short-term benefits that expanded offshore drilling might offer to the oil and gas industry;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of Clearwater, Florida, that:

- **Clearwater formally opposes the inclusion of any new offshore oil and gas leasing off the coast of Florida** in the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.
- **Clearwater urges the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)** to prioritize the protection of coastal economies, communities, and ecosystems by excluding new offshore oil and gas leases from the final leasing program.
- **Clearwater calls on our federal representatives in Congress** to oppose efforts to expand offshore drilling and to support policies that protect our oceans, coasts, and the industries and communities that depend on them.
- A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), Senator(s) Ashley Moody and Rick Scott, Representative(s) Kathy Castor and Anna Paulina Luna and any other relevant officials.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the City Council of Clearwater, Florida, on this 15th day of January, 2026.

Bruce Rector  
Mayor

Rosemary Call  
Clerk