

Town of Milton

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Resolution 2019-005 Opposition to Seismic Testing and Drilling Off the Atlantic Coast

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is moving forward with issuing permits for seismic testing off the Atlantic coast; and

WHEREAS, the seismic air-guns used to search for oil and gas emit one of the loudest sounds in existence, penetrate miles into the ocean floor, and are fired every ten seconds, 24 hours a day for weeks at a time; and

WHEREAS seismic blasts have been proven harmful to fish, marine mammals, and other marine life; and

WHEREAS, the full impact of seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean is not yet fully determined; and

WHEREAS, drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas pose a risk of spillage and leakage which could be catastrophic to the Delaware Bay, the Inland Bays, and Delaware's coastal wetlands and waterways; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the Town of Milton (Town), situated at the head of the Broadkill River, recognize the economic and environmental importance of a healthy and vibrant coastal environment and for the past fifteen (15) years, the Town, the U.S. Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have sponsored the Annual Horseshoe Crab and Shorebird Festival to promote the public's awareness of the economic, scientific, and recreational importance of horseshoe crabs and shorebirds; and

WHEREAS, an oil spill in the mid-Atlantic has the potential to have a catastrophic impact on recreational fishing along the Broadkill as well as cause damage to Broadkill Beach, which underwent a \$63 million beach replenishment project;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Mayor and Town Council that the Town of Milton is opposed to seismic air-gun testing and drilling for oil and natural gas in the Atlantic Ocean.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to our Congressional Representatives, the Governor, State Senator and Representative, DNREC Secretary, US Secretary of Commerce, NOAA Fisheries Director, US Secretary of Interior, the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and Cape Gazette.

I, THE UNDERSIGNED, Secretary of the Town Council of the Town of Milton, do hereby certify that the above resolution was passed at the meeting of the Town Council, duly called and convened, held on the 4th day of February, 2019, at which a quorum was present and voting throughout and that same is still in full force and effect.

TOWN OF MILTON

BY: Richard Betz
SECRETARY OF TOWN COUNCIL

DATE: 2/19/2019