

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BAYOUS PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION OF SANIBEL AND CAPTIVA ISLANDS, FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE APPROVAL OF OFF-SHORE DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO IN AREAS OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY APPROVED FOR OIL LEASING AND OIL EXPLORATION:**

WHEREAS, the Bayous Preservation Association (BPA) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit community-based organization on Sanibel and Captiva Islands, Florida. The BPA represents over three hundred members who live in the vicinity of Blind Pass, on the west end of Sanibel and the south end of Captiva Islands.

WHEREAS, the focus of the BPA is preserving the natural resources of Sanibel's western and Captiva's southern waterways through the restoration and maintenance of water flow and quality to a consistent level that will support healthy ecosystems.

WHEREAS, the BPA believes that clean beaches and a healthy marine environment are essential to Florida's tourist economy as well as to the quality of living for its residents.

WHEREAS, the BPA is fully aware that increasing energy costs result in a need to seek alternative energy sources that must not, however, endanger our environment and fragile marine ecosystems.

WHEREAS, the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico, off our western Florida beaches, has the greatest potential for environmental damage and, despite technological advances, offshore drilling resulting in even a small oil spill could result in significant damage to our coastline, beaches, and plant and fish life.

WHEREAS, the Bayous Preservation Association strongly opposes approval of any expansion of off-shore drilling within State waters and supports the current policy of not allowing expansion of oil or gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and further supports encouraging and assisting in the development of renewable alternative sources of energy such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, and geothermal heat.

Bayous Preservation Association

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