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RESOLUTION NO. 2011-B-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE BROWARD COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC., OPPOSING THE APPROVAL OF OIL DRILLING IN FLORIDA'S WATERS IN AREAS OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY APPROVED FOR OIL LEASING AND OIL EXPLORATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Florida's economy depends on its multi-billion dollar tourism industry, which resulted in more than 82 million visitors coming to Florida in 2008, during which period tourism generated over \$4.0 billion in taxable sales; and

WHEREAS, tourism accounts for one-third of Florida's budget revenue and 96% of those visitors cite the beaches as an influential factor in their decision to visit Florida; and

WHEREAS, tax revenues generated from Florida's growing tourism industry are critical to continued funding of essential governmental services, including transportation, schools and public safety; and

WHEREAS, the testing and training ranges of the eastern Gulf of Mexico are a unique and irreplaceable national security asset that provide critical live-fire testing and training opportunities that are incompatible with mineral exploration and extraction; and

WHEREAS, the area with the potential for the greatest risk of environmental damage is the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico, off the western coast of Florida; and

WHEREAS, environmental specialists contend the major risk from drilling platforms is the wastewater they routinely discharge which contains drilling fluids and heavy metals including mercury; and

WHEREAS, According to Oil Industry data, an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico can dump up to 90,000 tons of drilling fluid and metal cuttings over its lifetime. These contaminants accumulate-in-the marine food web and may contaminate local beaches and have a negative effect on the environment and the tourism industry; and

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WHEREAS, it is our belief that, despite technological advances in oil drilling technology, there is no positive assurance that catastrophic damage to our coastline, beaches, plant and fish life could be avoided during normal operating conditions or during storm situations; and

WHEREAS, lifting the moratorium on mineral leasing in the Gulf of Mexico poses an intolerable threat to the beaches, waterways, economy of Florida, and national security; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County League of Cities, Inc. strongly encourages all elected officials at the County, State and Federal levels to oppose legislative attempts to allow offshore oil drilling expansion beyond the areas already approved for pre-leasing, leasing and oil production activities and to take immediate steps to encourage and assist in the development of alternative sources of energy; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County League of Cities, Inc. strongly encourages all elected officials at the City, County and State levels to request the State government to consider enacting legislation including, but not limited to, proposing a state constitutional amendment to express Florida's opposition to drilling for oil off Florida's coast.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BROWARD COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC. THAT:

Section 1. The aforementioned "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are incorporated herein.

Section 2. The Broward County League of Cities, Inc. hereby opposes approval of oil drilling in Florida's waters in areas other than those already approved for oil leasing and oil exploration.

Section 3. The Board of Directors further directs the Executive Director to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to Representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen [R-FL], Kathy Castor [D-FL], Alcee Hastings [D-FL], Debbie Wasserman-Schultz [D-FL], Ron Klein [D-FL], The President of the United States, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, the Florida League of Cities, the Broward County Legislative Delegation and any other interested parties.

Section 4. All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith, be and the same are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

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Section 5. If any Section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution.

Section 6. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BROWARD COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC. THIS _____ DAY OF JUNE 2010.

ATTEST: BROWARD COUNTY LEAGUE OF CITIES, INC.

By: _____
ROY GOLD, PRESIDENT
COMMISSIONER, CORAL SPRINGS