



EVERGLADES COALITION

A Resolution of the Everglades Coalition Opposing Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling and New Offshore Leasing in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico

WHEREAS, the Greater Everglades Ecosystem depends on healthy, functioning coastal and marine environments, including the Gulf and its estuaries, which provide vital nursery grounds for fish, support marine mammals and sea turtles, and sustain the ecological integrity of South Florida;

WHEREAS, Florida's coastal and marine waters underpin a multibillion-dollar economy driven by tourism, recreation, commercial and recreational fishing, and coastal real estate, all of which depend on unspoiled shorelines, clean water, and thriving wildlife populations.

WHEREAS, the Deepwater Horizon disaster demonstrated that offshore drilling carries catastrophic and long-lasting consequences, including ecosystem collapse, long-term fisheries disruption, widespread wildlife mortality, and severe economic losses across the Gulf region;

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling—including associated activities such as seismic airgun blasting, platform construction, and pipeline development—pose significant risks to marine ecosystems, coastal communities, and endangered and threatened species, including but not limited to the West Indian manatee, smalltooth sawfish, Kemp's ridley sea turtle, loggerhead sea turtle, leatherback sea turtle, and the Rice's whale, one of the world's most endangered marine mammals;

WHEREAS, seismic airgun blasting used to search for subsea oil deposits produces repeated, high-intensity noise that can disrupt communication, foraging, navigation, calving, and migration for whales, dolphins, and other marine species, causing population-level impacts that undermine the ecological health of the Gulf and threaten the biodiversity that the Everglades ecosystem supports;

WHEREAS, the Gulf's Loop Current system and prevailing currents make Florida uniquely vulnerable to the rapid spread of oil from spills or well blowouts occurring hundreds of miles offshore, threatening the Greater Everglades, Florida Bay, Everglades National Park, Dry Tortugas National Park, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge, countless state and county parks, and Florida's Gulf and Atlantic coasts;

The Everglades Coalition is a 501(c)3 alliance of local, state, and national conservation organizations dedicated to the full protection and restoration of America's Everglades.

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WHEREAS, new offshore leasing in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico would jeopardize decades of bipartisan protection established under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA), and undermine ongoing federal, state, local, and Tribal investments in Everglades restoration, coastal resilience, and climate adaptation;

WHEREAS, the Everglades Coalition has consistently opposed decisions that threaten the ecological integrity, water quality, wildlife, and long-term restoration goals of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem, as demonstrated in prior resolutions;

WHEREAS, Florida's entire congressional delegation has signed a letter urging the President to reject the Department of the Interior's proposed plan that would violate the moratorium banning oil drilling off Florida's coasts;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is considering offshore leasing areas as part of the national Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Program, and has specifically sought public comment on whether to expand leasing in regions adjacent to Florida's coastlines;

WHEREAS, the risks posed by offshore drilling to the lands, waters, species, cultural resources, and communities connected to the Greater Everglades Ecosystem far outweigh any short-term economic benefit to the oil and gas industry;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED ON THIS JANUARY 23RD, 2026:

The Everglades Coalition, nearly 60 organizations dedicated to protecting and restoring America's Everglades with a 12.2-million-constituent network of followers, strongly opposes any new offshore oil and gas exploration, development, or leasing in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico or in any waters that threaten the Greater Everglades Ecosystem.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

The Everglades Coalition remains steadfast in its commitment to protecting the ecological integrity, wildlife, coastal resilience, and water resources of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem from the threats posed by offshore oil and gas activities.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

The Everglades Coalition urges the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to exclude all new offshore leasing areas adjacent to Florida from the national Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program, including but not limited to the Eastern Gulf Planning Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

The Everglades Coalition calls upon the President, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Congress, and the State of Florida to maintain and strengthen protections against offshore drilling in Florida's waters, including the extension of a long-term moratorium and the safeguarding of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) protections.

Mark Perry
Co-Chair

Lauren Jonaitis
Co-Chair

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