

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: June 7, 2010

Date Submitted: May 21, 2010

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Commissioner Kessler

Subject: Request Board Adopt a Resolution Opposing Oil Drilling and Supporting the Legislature to Place the Issue on the November 2010 Ballot

Statement of Issue:

Request Board Adopt a Resolution Opposing Oil Drilling and Supporting the Legislature to Place the Issue on the November 2010 Ballot.

Background:

Florida is known worldwide as a place for clean beaches and wonderful natural resources, and this reputation inspires tens of millions of visitors to come to Florida every year. The Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean are major natural resources to which locals and visitors alike are attracted for swimming, fishing, surfing, sailing, diving, snorkeling, boating, photographing, contemplating and enjoyment.

The degradation and pollution of our coastal waters and beaches will cause tremendous damage to our economy and ecology as is evidenced by the ongoing Deepwater Horizon oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. The territorial waters of the State of Florida extend approximately nine miles into the Gulf of Mexico and three miles into the Atlantic Ocean, and should be protected and excluded from oil and natural gas exploration and drilling.

Analysis:

The Florida Legislature has the authority to place for consideration on the November 2010 ballot for the State's electorate, a proposed amendment to the Florida Constitution which, if passed, would prohibit oil and natural gas exploration and drilling within the territorial waters of the State of Florida.

This agenda item requests the Boards support by adopting the proposed Resolution strongly opposing oil and natural gas exploration and drilling in the territorial water of the State of Florida, which would threaten the economy and environment of Florida, and requests that the Florida Legislature place this issue on the ballot for the November 2010 election so that citizens may exercise their right to vote to amend the State Constitution and thereby protect our territorial waters.

Agenda Request: Adopt the Resolution Opposing Oil Drilling and Supporting the Legislature to Place the Issue on the November 2010 Ballot.

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Options:

1. Adopt the Resolution Opposing Oil Drilling and Supporting the Legislature to Place the Issue on the November 2010 Ballot.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution Opposing Oil Drilling and Supporting the Legislature to Place the Issue on the November 2010 Ballot.
3. Board Direction.

Recommendation

Option #1

Attachments:

1. Proposed Resolution
2. List of Other Supporting Counties
3. Save Our Seas, Beaches and Shores, Inc. Letter of Support