

SAVE OUR SEAS, BEACHES AND SHORES, INC.  
2545 Blairstone Pines Dr.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

The Hon. David Rivera  
1460 107<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite P, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Miami, FL 33172

May 20, 2010

RE: Support for Special Session and Joint Resolution to allow Floridians to Vote on Oil and Gas Exploration

Dear Representative Rivera:

Please support a Special Session as soon as possible; such a Session would present the Legislature with an unprecedented opportunity. If the House and Senate pass a Joint Resolution on the drilling issue, Floridians will finally be allowed to vote to determine if oil and gas exploration will be allowed in our near-shore waters. As our fabled coastlines and beaches are the very essence of this State, and the main driver of our economy through tourism and related businesses, Floridians will be afforded the choice to amend our Constitution and either allow this practice to be considered in the future or disallow it.

Please note that this issue is not partisan in nature. As the attached list of cities, counties and civic organizations, including chambers of commerce, who have passed resolutions in opposition to drilling attests, Republicans, Democrats and Independents all see the danger of drilling in our state waters right on the coast. This danger could be no clearer with the ongoing Deepwater Horizon calamity that is even now causing economic hardship in the Panhandle through tourist cancellations. Moreover, past Governors from Jeb Bush to Lawton Chiles have strongly opposed drilling in Florida waters due to the potential damage to our economy and ecology.

If this disaster had happened in near-shore waters and not far out in the Gulf, imagine the catastrophe with oil along our now sandy white beaches. This potential catastrophe would be years in the undoing - there still exists environmental damage from the Exxon Valdez spill from more than 20 years ago.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration and please LET US VOTE.

Sincerely,

Manley K. Fuller III  
Chair