State of Florida
Legislators

Northwest Florida
Gulf of Mexico Oil Drilling
Regional Position Package

March 2010

Presented by

THE DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVE
For
Okaloosa – Santa Rosa – Walton Counties

c/o The Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, Florida
Post Office Box 4097, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549
850-362-6467 www.florida-edc.org/defense/htm
March 1, 2010

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Defense Support Initiative (DSI), sponsored by the Economic Development Council servicing Okaloosa County, Florida is comprised of 25 community leaders representing the community-based military and defense support organizations from Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties. These three counties serve as home for NAS Whiting Field, Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, Duke Field and, beginning in 2011, the US Army 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). The DSI joined forces with Escambia and Bay Counties in 2006 to form a separate five-county Northwest Florida Defense Coalition to support and enhance Northwest Florida’s military installations, missions and national security strategies. This merger extended the support umbrella to include NAS Pensacola, Tyndall AFB and Naval Support Activity Panama City.

The Gulf of Mexico and the Eglin Gulf Range Complex is, by any measure or standard, a national test and training treasure and asset. As weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, this test and training range takes on even greater importance in the national security of the United States. It is a unique feature possessing unique test and training capabilities and is highly regarded by the Department of Defense and all the military services.

Many organizations in Northwest Florida have consistently fought to keep offshore or near-shore drilling from the Eastern military mission line waters of the Gulf. The Military Mission Line defines a testing and training range that is crucial to the operation of the military in Northwest Florida and is a critical national asset. The military installations in Northwest Florida provide a yearly economic impact of over $17.5 billion and with 220,000 direct and indirect jobs. The offshore drilling proponents argue that only $2.2 billion may be generated from the awarding of offshore drilling leases in state waters. As you can see, this proposition does not make fiscal sense; much less military, tourism or environmental health sense.

Past federal policies are in place protecting a Military Mission Line running from Hurlburt Field south into the Gulf, with oil and natural gas drilling restricted to the west of the line. This packet provides 12 resolutions and proclamations from the Northwest Florida region supporting these protective policies and opposing activity in the Gulf of Mexico that would adversely affect the military missions and economic health of the region. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sam Burkett
DSI Chairman

Kay Rasmussen
Director of Defense & Economic Initiatives

Enclosure
Military Operations in the Gulf

Gulf of Mexico

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Military Mission Line
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Bay Defense Alliance, Inc.
Resolution Against Offshore Drilling in the Gulf of Mexico
East of the Military Mission Line

Whereas the Bay Defense Alliance is a community organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Bay County, Florida military installations and their missions in an era of military downsizing; and

Whereas a Florida Defense Industry Economic Impact Analysis completed in January 2008 by the University of West Florida Haas Center for Business Research and Economic Development determined Department of Defense spending in the State of Florida directly and indirectly accounts for an estimated 732,300 jobs and over $57 billion in estimated economic impact in 2007; and

Whereas the same Florida Defense Industry Economic Impact Analysis completed in January 2008 by the University of West Florida Haas Center for Business Research and Economic Development determined Department of Defense spending in Bay County directly and indirectly accounts for an estimated 32,600 jobs and over $2.4 billion in estimated economic impact in 2007; and

Whereas former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, in response to inquiries from the Senate Armed Services Committee, stated that prior analysis and existing agreements with the Department of the Interior recognize that areas east of the 86º 41’ line in the Gulf of Mexico (commonly known as the "Military Mission Line") are especially critical to the Department of Defense due to the number of and diversity of military testing and training activities conducted there now and those planned for the future; and in those areas east of the Military Mission Line, drilling structures and associated development would be incompatible with military activities such as missile flights, low flying aircraft, weapons testing, and training;

Now, therefore be it resolved, that the Bay Defense Alliance strongly opposes the idea of offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line, in that it will disrupt the planning area established by the Department of the Interior’s Mineral Management Services and the Department of Defense for use by the United States Armed Services for military training and testing purposes.

BAY DEFENSE ALLIANCE

[Signature]

Tom Neubauer, President
September 5, 2008
RESOLUTION 2010-1

A RESOLUTION OF
THE CRESTVIEW AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
in opposition of any activity in the Gulf of Mexico, State or Federal waters that would
negatively impact local military missions, tourism or coastal environmental
health east of the Military Mission Line.

WHEREAS, the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce serves to represent the interests of
businesses in our area protecting and expanding the economic viability of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce represents businesses of North
Okaloosa County Area with a large unincorporated area in proximity to Eglin Air Force Base,
Duke Field, Hurlburt Field, and the surrounding ranges which make up the largest military
installation in the world and recognized as a national security treasure; and

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico and the Eglin Gulf Range Complex are considered national test
and training treasures, as well as tourism and environmental assets. As weapon systems and
aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, this test and training range takes on even
greater importance in U.S. national security; it cannot be replicated anywhere in the United
States. Likewise, the health of the Florida coast is essential to the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce understands and supports the drive for
U.S. energy independence and supports a broad, multifaceted approach that utilizes the most
current technologies and conservation measures without endangering our national security or
local economic drivers.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CRESTVIEW AREA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT WE:

OPPOSE ANY FEDERAL OR STATE PROPOSALS THAT WOULD ENCROACH
UPON THE GULF SHOULD THEY HAVE ANY POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACT ON
TEST AND TRAINING CAPABILITIES, TOURISM OR COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH. THE CRESTVIEW AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS RESPECTFUL
OF PAST FEDERAL POLICIES THAT HAVE SUPPORTED A MILITARY MISSION
LINE RUNNING SOUTH INTO THE GULF, WITH OIL AND NATURAL GAS
DRILLING RESTRICTED TO THE WEST OF THIS LINE.

Adopted this 18th day of January, 2010

Bob Jones, President of the Board

ATTEST:

Wayne Harris
Executive Director
RESOLUTION 2009 – 5

A RESOLUTION OF THE DESTIN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING IN STATE WATERS OFF THE COAST OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA.

WHEREAS, the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) is a business organization representing 1,000 businesses in southern Okaloosa and Walton Counties, and

WHEREAS, the Chamber supports the missions of all military bases in the state of Florida, and

WHEREAS, the Chamber promotes tourism for its members in the Destin Area, and

WHEREAS, military related business, industry and missions represent nearly $5 billion in economic impact and nearly 19,000 jobs in our community and those missions would be greatly jeopardized by offshore drilling in state waters, and

WHEREAS, tourism is a $60 billion industry in the state of Florida and would be jeopardized by offshore drilling in state waters, and

WHEREAS, the military has a $60 billion economic impact in the state of Florida and would be jeopardized by offshore drilling in state waters, and

WHEREAS, the Chamber previously passed Resolution 2009 – 3 on June 30, 2009, opposing offshore drilling as it relates to the federal American Clean Energy Act of 2009 and any drilling within forty miles of the Northwest Florida Coast including the Destin Dome,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce adamantly opposes Florida House Bill 1219 passed at the end of the 2009 Legislative Session, and opposes any offshore drilling in state waters.

SO RESOLVED THIS 28th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2009.

Karen McCarthy
Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

Shane A. Moody, IOM, CCE
President and CEO

Building a World-Class Community One Business at a Time

4484 Legendary Drive, Suite A  |  Destin, FL 32541
(850) 837-6241  |  Fax (850) 654-5612  |  www.DestinChamber.com
RESOLUTION 2009 – 3

A RESOLUTION OF THE DESTIN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN OPPOSITION OF OFFSHORE DRILLING AS IT RELATES TO THE DESTIN DOME AND THE AMERICAN CLEAN ENERGY LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2009.

WHEREAS, the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce is a business organization representing nearly 1,000 members in the Destin area; and

WHEREAS, the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce is fully cognizant of the need to explore for new energy sources; and

WHEREAS, the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce understands the need to search for newer, cleaner alternative forms of energy; and

WHEREAS, the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce supports becoming less dependent on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, the preservation and conservation of its natural resources is critical to Northwest Florida’s environment and economic future; and

WHEREAS, the Destin area is largely dependent upon the tourism industry, making our natural resources, our beaches and the Gulf of Mexico vital to our economy; and

WHEREAS, the construction of oil wells within the Destin Dome or within forty miles of our pristine coastline would be detrimental to tourism in our area, and therefore detrimental to our economy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors opposes any oil well construction and off-shore drilling within forty miles of the Northwest Florida coast, including the Destin Dome.

SO RESOLVED THIS 30th DAY OF JUNE 2009.

Karen McCarthy, Chairman of the Board

Shane A. Moody, CEO, IOM
President and CEO

Building a World-Class Community One Business at a Time

4484 Legendary Drive, Suite A  |  Destin, FL 32541
(850) 837-6241  |  Fax (850) 654-5612  |  www.DestinChamber.com
The Defense Support Initiative
of Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton Counties

A resolution of the tri-county Defense Support Initiative opposing any federal or state proposals that would negatively impact military missions conducted in the Gulf of Mexico.

WHEREAS, the Defense Support Initiative (DSI) sponsored by the Economic Development Council servicing Okaloosa County, Florida represents the community-based military and defense support organizations from Santa Rosa County, Okaloosa County and Walton County. These three counties serve as home for NAS Pensacola, Naval Education and Training Command, NAS Whiting Field, Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, Duke Field and, beginning in 2011, the US Army 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). In addition, immediately to the east of Walton County sits Bay County, host community for Tyndall AFB and Naval Support Activity Panama City.

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico and the Eglin Gulf Range Complex is, by any measure or standard, regarded as a national test and training treasure and asset. As weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, this test and training range takes on even greater importance in the national security of the United States. It is a unique feature possessing unique test and training capabilities and is highly regarded by the Department of Defense and all the military services. It cannot be replicated anywhere is the United States.

WHEREAS, the DSI understands and supports the drive for U.S. energy independence and supports a broad, multi-faceted approach that utilizes the most current technologies and conservation measures. However, sacrificing a key lynchpin in our national security cannot be a part of the effort.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Defense Support Initiative that:

The DSI strongly rejects any federal or state proposals that would encroach upon the Gulf should they have any negative impact on these test and training capabilities.

The DSI urges all federal and state policy makers to be mindful of the need for a strong national defense whenever considering expansion of allowable activity in the Gulf of Mexico. The DSI is respectful of past federal policies that have supported a Military Mission Line running from Hurlburt Field south into the Gulf, with oil and natural gas drilling restricted to the west of this line.

ADOPTED on the 13th day of November, 2009.

APPROVED BY:  WITNESSED BY:

Sam Burkett  Kay Rasmussen
DSI Chairman  DSI Director
RESOLUTION

A resolution of the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, Florida in opposition of any activity in the Gulf of Mexico, State or Federal waters, that would negatively impact local military missions, tourism or coastal environmental health.

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, serves as Okaloosa County’s primary economic development and business advocacy organization committed to the continual growth and diversification of its economy. The EDC’s primary objectives are 1) existing industry diversification, retention and expansion, 2) development of a technically skilled and available workforce, and 3) recruitment of targeted industries all supporting the continual development of quality of place.

WHEREAS, the Economic Development Council represents all of Okaloosa County and its nine municipalities which are host communities for Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field and Duke Field collectively housed on the largest military installation in the world and known as the Department of Defense’s national security treasure.

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico and the Eglin Gulf Range Complex are considered national test and training treasures, and tourism and environmental assets. As weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, this test and training range takes on even greater importance in U.S. national security; it cannot be replicated anywhere is the United States. Likewise, the health of the Florida coast is essential to the tourism industry, and the availability of sand renourishment from the continental shelf.

WHEREAS, the EDC understands and supports the drive for U.S. energy independence and supports a broad, multi-faceted approach that utilizes the most current technologies and conservation measures without endangering our national security or local economic drivers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the EDC opposes any federal or state proposals that would encroach upon the Gulf should they have any negative impact on test and training capabilities, tourism or coastal environmental health. The EDC is respectful of past federal policies that have supported a Military Mission Line running from Hurlburt Field south into the Gulf, with oil and natural gas drilling restricted to the west of this line.

ADOPTED on the 17th day of December, 2009, by the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County Board of Directors.

APPROVED BY:  
Gordon Eldridge  
EDC Chairman

WITNESSED BY:  
Larry Sassano  
EDC President

P.O. Box 4097, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547  
850-362-6467 ~ www.florida-edc.org
A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MILITARY MISSION OVER DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

WHEREAS, the test and training ranges of the eastern Gulf of Mexico are a unique and irreplaceable national security asset providing critical airspace for the research, development, acquisition, test and evaluation mission at Eglin Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, the test and training ranges of the eastern Gulf of Mexico also provide critical training airspace for Tyndall Air Force Base, Naval Air Station Whiting Field, and Naval Air Station Pensacola; and

WHEREAS, the military sector is the key economic driver in Northwest Florida; and

WHEREAS, current proposals to drill for oil and natural gas in the Gulf of Mexico may threaten these critical national security components; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Emerald Coast Military Affairs Council is opposed to any offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico that may in any way endanger the ability of the military installations in Northwest Florida to execute their current missions or expand their missions as necessary for our national security.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of January, 2010.

EMERALD COAST MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

CLIFF LONG, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY PIGOTT, SECRETARY
RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO EAST OF THE MILITARY MISSION LINE

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida is home to seven military installations, including Naval Air Station Pensacola, Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Duke Field, Hurlburt Field, Eglin Air Force Base, Naval Support Activity Panama City and Tyndall Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, the defense industry has a $15 billion annual economic impact on Northwest Florida and employs more than 70,000 employees in the region; and

WHEREAS, former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, in response to inquiries from the Senate Armed Services Committee, stated that prior analysis and existing agreements with the Department of the Interior recognize that areas east of the 86° 41’ line in the Gulf of Mexico (commonly known as the Military Mission Line) are especially critical to the Department of Defense due to the number of and diversity of military testing and training activities conducted there now and those planned for the future; and in those areas east of the Military Mission Line, drilling structures and associated development would be incompatible with military activities such as missile flights, low flying aircraft, weapons testing and training; and

WHEREAS, Northwest Florida’s military installations all conduct training missions in this vast test range and protecting this significant air and sea space is vital to the region’s present and future economic success;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Florida’s Great Northwest, as follows:

1. Florida’s Great Northwest, while not opposed to the exploration of alternative energy resources, strongly opposes offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line in that it will disrupt the planning area established by the Department of Defense for use by the United States Armed Services for military training and testing.

2. That a copy of this Resolution be provided to all elected officials representing Northwest Florida within the Florida Executive and Legislative branches and the United States Congress.

THIS RESOLUTION ADOPTED this 21st day of August, 2009.

Fred Leopold, Chairman

Kim Bodine, Secretary
A Resolution of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce
Opposing Offshore Drilling in the Gulf of Mexico

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of the 1,500 members and 1,260 businesses, requests of our elected officials specific actions and public statements to block further attempts to open the eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore drilling.

WHEREAS, we oppose legislative attempts to enable oil drilling for the following reasons:

1. Drilling will produce no oil for a decade or more and then in insufficient quantities to impact supply/demand metrics that drive the cost of energy or impact domestic security.

2. Drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico will impair the military mission of bases in the region or will at the very least encourage review of alternative basing of certain military functions.

3. Alternative, sustainable and clean energy sources are the cure to the addiction to oil and the only environmentally healthy solution to issues facing the region and nation.

4. Tourism and the beauty of our coastline must be protected and preserved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce asks our elected Congressmen, Senators, and the Governor of the State of Florida to take action to block drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.

Adopted on the 24th day of July, 2008 by the Board of Directors of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce in Fort Walton Beach, Okaloosa County, Florida.

Kathy Houchins  
2008 Chair of the Board

David M. Braithwaite  
Vice Chair – Government Division

34 Miracle Strip Parkway, S.E. • P.O. Box 640 • Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549 • Office: 850-244-8191 • Fax: 850-244-1193
www.fwbcchamber.org
RESOLUTION 2010-1

A RESOLUTION OF
THE NICEVILLE VALPARAISO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
in opposition of any activity in the Gulf of Mexico, State or Federal waters that would
negatively impact local military missions, tourism or coastal environmental
health east of the Military Mission Line.

WHEREAS, the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce serves to represent the interests of
businesses in our area protecting and expanding the economic viability of our community; and

WHEREAS, the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce represents businesses in two
municipalities along with a large unincorporated area in proximity to Eglin Air Force Base, Duke
Field, Hurlburt Field, and the surrounding ranges which make up the largest military installation
in the world and recognized as a national security treasure; and

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico and the Eglin Gulf Range Complex are considered national test
and training treasures, as well as tourism and environmental assets. As weapon systems and
aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, this test and training range takes on even
greater importance in U.S. national security; it cannot be replicated anywhere in the United
States. Likewise, the health of the Florida coast is essential to the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce understands and supports the drive
for U.S. energy independence and supports a broad, multifaceted approach that utilizes the most
current technologies and conservation measures without endangering our national security or
local economic drivers.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NICEVILLE VALPARAISO
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT WE:

OPPOSE ANY FEDERAL OR STATE PROPOSALS THAT WOULD ENCROACH UPON THE GULF
SHOULD THEY HAVE ANY POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACT ON TEST AND TRAINING
CAPABILITIES, TOURISM OR COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH. THE NICEVILLE
VALPARAISO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS RESPECTFUL OF PAST FEDERAL POLICIES THAT
HAVE SUPPORTED A MILITARY MISSION LINE RUNNING SOUTH INTO THE GULF, WITH OIL
AND NATURAL GAS DRILLING RESTRICTED TO THE WEST OF THIS LINE.

Adopted this 27th day of January, 2010

Philippe Miceli
Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

Tricia Brunson
President & CEO
A Resolution Opposing Offshore Mineral Exploration

WHEREAS, the test and training ranges of the eastern Gulf of Mexico are a unique and irreplaceable national security asset providing critical airspace for high priority missions for joint Department of Defense military installations and units located in Northwest Florida; and

WHEREAS, critical live-fire test and training opportunities take place in the eastern Gulf of Mexico that are incompatible with current mineral exploration and extraction processes and techniques; and

WHEREAS, waters along the Northwest Florida shoreline contain significant marine ecosystems that support both tourism and the fishing industries and are responsible for billions of dollars a year in local and state revenue while providing both an environmental and aesthetic value; and

WHEREAS, the emerald green waters and pristine white beaches are the main attractions for visitors coming to Okaloosa County; and

WHEREAS, tourism, hospitality and the defense industry are the largest employers in Okaloosa County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Okaloosa County, Florida is opposed to offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line.

Duly passed and adopted this 20th day of October, 2009.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

BILL ROBERTS, CHAIRMAN

DON W. HOWARD
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT
POLICY POSITION REGARDING GULF OF MEXICO OIL DRILLING

The Gulf of Mexico and the Eglin Gulf Range Complex is a national Test and Training asset. As weapons systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, this Test and Training Range becomes increasingly important to the national security of the United States. Its unique features cannot be replicated anywhere in the United States.

With this fact in mind, the TEAM Santa Rosa Economic Development Council, Inc. opposes any federal or state proposals that would encroach upon the Gulf should they have any negative impact on military Test and Training capabilities. TEAM Santa Rosa EDC Inc. is respectful of past federal policies that have supported a Military Mission Line running from Hurlburt Field south into the Gulf, with oil and gas drilling restricted to the west of this line.

TEAM Santa Rosa EDC Inc. understands and supports the drive for U.S. energy independence and supports a broad, multi-faceted approach that utilizes the most current technologies and conservation measures. However, sacrificing a key component of our national security must not be a part of the effort.

TEAM Santa Rosa EDC Inc. urges all federal and state policy makers to be mindful of the need for a strong national defense whenever considering expansion of allowable activity in the Gulf of Mexico.

ESTABLISHED THIS 16th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2009.

Ferd Salomon, Chairman
TEAM Santa Rosa Economic Development Council, Inc.
WHEREAS the Walton Area Chamber is a membership organization of nearly 1,300 comprised of members representing businesses, industry and local governments; and

WHEREAS all military installations in the Northwest Florida, including Tyndall Air Force Base, Naval Support Activity Panama City, Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field, Pensacola Naval Air Station and NAS Whiting Field, conduct training missions in this vast test range; and

WHEREAS former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, in response to inquiries from the Senate Armed Services Committee, stated that prior analysis and existing agreements with the Department of the Interior recognize that areas east of the 86° 41' line in the Gulf of Mexico (commonly known as the "Military Mission Line") are especially critical to the Department of Defense due to the number of and diversity of military testing and training activities conducted there now and those planned for the future; and in those areas east of the Military Mission Line, drilling structures and associated development would be incompatible with military activities such as missile nights, low flying aircraft, weapons testing, and training; and

WHEREAS the hospitality industry in Walton County is the largest sector of the local economy and relies on the pristine quality of the area beaches to attract tourists from all over the world and drilling in close proximity will threaten the sustainability of Walton County’s primary attraction; and

WHEREAS protecting Walton County's beaches and waters from the threat of environmental impacts attributable to offshore activities, including physical disturbances caused by anchoring, pipeline placement and rig construction, the resuspension of bottom sediments and pollution from drilling and production discharges, preserves Walton County's economic and environmental interests.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Walton Area Chamber of Commerce strongly opposes the idea of offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line, in that it will disrupt the planning area established by the Department of the Interior's Mineral Management Services and the Department of Defense for use by the United States Armed Services for military training and testing purposes.

WALTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chair, John Forrester
Date: June 15, 2009
Mission Statement

To support and maintain the local military installations and their positive economic contributions to the tri-county area while maintaining and nurturing the relationships with the civilian communities that house them.

www.florida-edc.org/defense.htm