

PARISH RESOLUTION NO. PR-008-2021

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LAFAYETTE PARISH COUNCIL SUPPORTING
RESUMING FEDERAL OFFSHORE LEASING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Lafayette Parish Council that the Lafayette Parish Council and the Office of the Lafayette Mayor-President are in support of resuming Federal Offshore Leasing in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America Offshore Oil and Gas Program, since its authorization by the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA), has provide significant energy to help fuel the great economy of America; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America Offshore Oil and Gas Program has been very effective in helping America achieve energy security and strengthening our National Security; and

WHEREAS, the offshore industry and government have collaborated with groups such as Coastal Conservation Association to create innovative ways to find beneficial cooperation such as the Rig-to-Reefs program, which benefits the recreation fishing community by repurposing obsolete structures of which nearly 600 reefed platforms in the United States Gulf of Mexico are home to almost 7,000,000 fish and other critical marine species, enriching marine life; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the United States of America Offshore Oil and Gas Program is responsible for helping create hundreds of thousands of jobs with a significant economic impact and has generated hundreds of billions in royalty revenue for the United States Treasury; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress in 2020 permanently funded the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million per year with wide bipartisan support. Relying solely on earnings from federal offshore oil and gas leasing, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has funded more than \$4,000,000,000 worth of projects since its inception in 1965 for purposes of conservation, recreation, restoration and protection of vital national resources; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, more than \$1,000,000,000, funded exclusively by federal offshore lease revenues, has been disbursed to four Gulf energy-producing states through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act to support coastal conservation and restoration projects; hurricane protection programs; and activities to implement marine coastal or conservation management plans; and

WHEREAS, in the most recent conversation legislation, the Great American Outdoors Act, the United States Congress set aside up to \$1,900,000,000 a year from federal offshore lease revenues for the next five (5) years to repair facilities and infrastructure in our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and American Indian Schools; and

WHEREAS, it is important for the funding of these conservation, recreation, restoration and protection efforts that the United States of America Offshore Oil and Gas Program continues; and

WHEREAS, United States of America Offshore Energy represents a significant opportunity to help improve the health of our planet due to its low carbon intensity; and

WHEREAS, President Biden and Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland have caused regularly scheduled lease sales for offshore resources, previously authorized by administrations of both political parties, to be canceled resulting in great uncertainty for the economy, the energy, and the environment of America; and

WHEREAS, Terry A. Doughty of the United States District Court recently decided in a suit filed by the States of Louisiana, Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and West Virginia that the Executive Branch does not have the legal right to stop leasing Federal territory for Oil and Gas production without approval from Congress; and

WHEREAS, the future production of these oil and gas resources and consequently the funding of conservation, recreation, and protection and further consequently the denial of environmentally advantaged, low carbon intensity barrels of production as a substitution for high carbon intensity barrels of production from foreign sources; all will be negatively impacted by the continued cancellation of offshore lease sales.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Lafayette Parish Council, that:

SECTION 1: All of the aforescribed "Whereas" clauses are adopted as part of this resolution.

SECTION 2: Petitions President Biden and Secretary Haaland to immediately schedule Lease Sales for the Gulf of Mexico, a historic energy producing province, to assist in producing a larger portfolio of some of the planet's lowest carbon intensity barrels of oil and to assist in producing a larger portfolio of natural gas which can serve the Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) worldwide market; all in an effort to restore confidence, generate economic activity, enhance environmental stewardship, create American jobs, and strengthen national energy security.

SECTION 3: That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to President Biden, Secretary Haaland, members of the United States Congress, the City and Parish governing authorities within the State of Louisiana, the Louisiana Police Jury Association, the Louisiana Municipal Association, and the National Association of Counties.

SECTION 4: All resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote on behalf of the Lafayette Parish Council thereon was as follows:

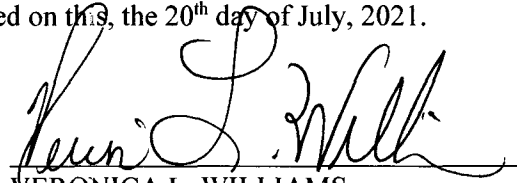
YEAS: Tabor, Carlson, Guilbeau, Rubin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Naquin

ABSTAIN: None

AND the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 20th day of July, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Veronica L. Williams", written over a horizontal line.

VERONICA L. WILLIAMS
LAFAYETTE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

**RECEIVED**

JUL 08 2021

Lafayette Consolidated Government
Chief Administrative Officer

Internal Memorandum

Elected Officials - Executive
Mayor-President's Office (1200)**TO:** Cydra Wingerter**DATE:** July 8, 2021**FROM:** Josh Guillory**SUBJECT:** Parish Council Agenda Item – Resolution
July 20, 2021 Meeting

The attached resolution is to support of resuming Federal Offshore Leasing in the Gulf of Mexico that will assist in strengthening national, economic and energy security while simultaneously generating revenue to fund conservation, recreation, restoration and protection of vital national resources through the 1) Land and Water Conservation Fund, 2) Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, and 3) Great American Outdoors Act.

The Gulf of Mexico is a historic energy producing province and home to the least carbon intensity barrels of production in the United States of American. Regularly scheduled lease sales have been previously authorized by administrations of both political parties for several decades. The royalties generated from this Offshore Oil and Gas Program are of significant importance to the counties and parishes of America.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh Guillory', is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the name 'Josh Guillory' and title 'Mayor-President' are printed.

Josh Guillory
Mayor-President

jm

Attachments

LAFAYETTE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL FORM

1) **JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST:** A resolution of the Lafayette Parish Council in support of resuming Federal Offshore Leasing in the Gulf of Mexico.

2) **ACTION REQUESTED:** Adoption of resolution

3) **COUNCIL DISTRICT(S) (if applicable):** _____

4) **REQUESTED ACTION OF COUNCIL:**

A) **INTRODUCTION:** July 20, 2021

B) **FINAL ADOPTION:** July 20, 2021

5) **DOCUMENTATION INCLUDED WITH THIS REQUEST:**

A) Cover Memo from Director (1 page)

B) Submittal Item Justification Form (1 page)

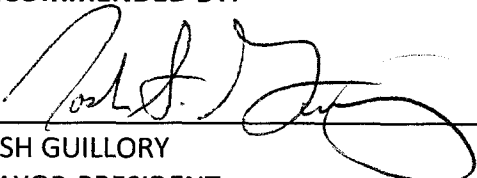
C) Resolution (3 pages)

6) **FISCAL IMPACT:**

_____ Fiscal Impact


X No Fiscal Impact

RECOMMENDED BY:



JOSH GUILLORY
MAYOR-PRESIDENT

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:



CYDRA WINGERTER
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER