

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 11

M3, M1

8lr3639

By: **Senators Mathias, Miller, Astle, Bates, Benson, Brochin, Conway, Currie, DeGrange, Eckardt, Edwards, Feldman, Ferguson, Guzzone, Hershey, Jennings, Kagan, Kasemeyer, Kelley, King, Klausmeier, Lee, Madaleno, Manno, McFadden, Middleton, Muse, Nathan-Pulliam, Norman, Oaks, Peters, Pinsky, Ramirez, Reilly, Robinson, Rosapepe, Salling, Simonaire, Smith, Young, Zirkin, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 2018

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, February 23, 2018

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 16, 2018

RESOLUTION NO. _____

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Coastal Area – Protection From Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling**

3 FOR the purpose of expressing the strong and unequivocal opposition of the General
4 Assembly of Maryland to the draft proposed National Outer Continental Shelf Oil
5 and Gas Leasing Program for 2019–2024, and the implementation of any offshore oil
6 or gas leasing, exploration, development, or production in the Atlantic Ocean; urging
7 the Secretary of the Interior of the United States to remove Maryland from the
8 proposed leasing program; urging the United States Congress to maintain current
9 safety and environmental protections for Maryland’s coastal area and to prohibit oil
10 and gas drilling in certain federal waters; and generally relating to the draft
11 proposed National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for
12 2019–2024.

13 WHEREAS, On January 4, 2018, the Secretary of the Interior of the United States
14 announced the draft proposed National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing
15 Program for 2019–2024, which includes nine lease sales in the Atlantic Region, three of
16 which are proposed for the Mid-Atlantic area; and

17 WHEREAS, Just a few days after announcing the proposal to open the Atlantic coast
18 to drilling, the Secretary of the Interior of the United States stated his intention to remove
19 the coast of Florida from consideration for new leases because of its reliance on tourism as

EXPLANATION:

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken by amendment.



1 an economic driver; and

2 WHEREAS, In the Atlantic Region, there are no existing oil or gas leases and there
3 have been no lease sales since 1983; and

4 WHEREAS, Maryland's coastal area encompasses the shores of the Atlantic Ocean
5 and the Chesapeake Bay and includes part of Assateague Island National Seashore, as well
6 as Assateague State Park, Janes Island State Park, Point Lookout State Park, and several
7 other State and local parks; and

8 WHEREAS, Maryland's coastal area constitutes a unique, irreplaceable, natural,
9 and esthetic resource that also has great economic value in its tourism, recreation, and
10 fishing industries; and

11 WHEREAS, An oil spill off the coast of Maryland would have devastating
12 consequences for the State's environment and economy; and

13 WHEREAS, An oil spill off the coast of another Atlantic state would likely have
14 devastating consequences for Maryland's coastal environment and economy due to the flow
15 of the Gulf Stream, local currents, and prevailing winds in this region that, according to
16 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, blow toward or along the coast 72%
17 of the time; and

18 WHEREAS, In April 2010, the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil drilling rig
19 released approximately 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, which fouled
20 beaches and coastal wetlands from Louisiana to Florida, killed birds, fish, and marine
21 mammals, and devastated the recreation and fishing-based economies of the Gulf States;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Even 25 years after the Exxon Valdez spill off the coast of Alaska, an
24 estimated 16,000 to 21,000 gallons of oil remained in the sand and soil of beaches in Prince
25 William Sound and up to 450 miles away; and

26 WHEREAS, In 1988, medical waste and garbage washed up on the shore impacting
27 the coastal environment and economy of several states and causing the New Jersey tourism
28 industry to lose an estimated \$1 billion; and

29 WHEREAS, The construction of artificial reefs from old tires that were strapped
30 together instead of weighted with concrete also adversely impacted the environment and
31 economy of several states when the strapping broke and tires washed ashore; and

32 WHEREAS, Coast-related activities, including the seafood and tourism industries,
33 contribute over \$18 billion annually to Maryland's economy, supporting more than 150,000
34 direct jobs; now, therefore, be it

35 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General
36 Assembly of Maryland strongly and unequivocally opposes the draft proposed National

1 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019–2024, and the
2 implementation of any offshore oil or gas leasing, exploration, development, or production
3 in the Atlantic Ocean; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges the Secretary of the
5 Interior of the United States to remove Maryland from the proposed leasing program; and
6 be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges the United States
8 Congress to maintain current safety and environmental protections for Maryland’s coastal
9 area and to prohibit oil and gas drilling in federal waters off the coast of Maryland and in
10 other locations that may adversely impact Maryland’s coastal area; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
12 Legislative Services to:

13 (1) the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, the
14 White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500; the Honorable Michael R.
15 Pence, Vice President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, Suite
16 S–212, United States Capitol Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Orrin
17 Hatch, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, Senate Office Building,
18 Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the United States House
19 of Representatives, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; the Honorable Charles
20 E. Schumer, Minority Leader of the United States Senate, Senate Office Building,
21 Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the United States
22 House of Representatives, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and the
23 Honorable Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior, United States Department of the Interior,
24 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240; and

25 (2) the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the
26 Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Benjamin L. Cardin and Christopher Van
27 Hollen, Jr., Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and Representatives Andrew
28 P. Harris, C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger, III, John P. Sarbanes, Anthony G. Brown, Steny
29 Hamilton Hoyer, John K. Delaney, Elijah E. Cummings, and Jamie B. Raskin, House Office
30 Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and

31 (3) the Honorable Benjamin H. Grumbles, Secretary of the Environment,
32 Montgomery Park Business Center, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore, Maryland 21230,
33 and the Honorable Mark J. Belton, Secretary of Natural Resources, Tawes State Office
34 Building, 580 Taylor Ave., Annapolis, Maryland 21401; and

35 (4) the Honorable Richard W. Meehan, Mayor of Ocean City, Maryland,
36 and the Ocean City Council: Lloyd Martin, Council President, Mary Knight, Dennis Dare,
37 Tony DeLuca, John Gehrig, Jr., Wayne Hartman, and Matt James, 301 N. Baltimore
38 Avenue, Ocean City, Maryland 21842.