

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 11

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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

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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  
20 an economic driver; and

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

23 WHEREAS, Maryland’s coastal area encompasses the shores of the Atlantic Ocean



1 and the Chesapeake Bay and includes part of Assateague Island National Seashore, as well  
2 as Assateague State Park, Janes Island State Park, Point Lookout State Park, and several  
3 other State and local parks; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General  
32 Assembly of Maryland strongly and unequivocally opposes the draft proposed National  
33 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019–2024, and the  
34 implementation of any offshore oil or gas leasing, exploration, development, or production  
35 in the Atlantic Ocean; and be it further

36 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges the Secretary of the  
37 Interior of the United States to remove Maryland from the proposed leasing program; and

1 be it further

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

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

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

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

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

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