CARTERET COUNTY
Chamber of Commerce

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF NEW OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING OFF THE COAST OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THE 11th NATIONAL OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the economy of Carteret County, North Carolina depends heavily on a healthy coastal and marine environment, supporting industries such as tourism, commercial and recreational fishing, aquaculture, boat building, and related small businesses; and

WHEREAS, clean water, thriving ecosystems, and an attractive coastal environment are vital to maintaining property values, sustaining local businesses, and ensuring the quality of life for residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas exploration, development, and drilling carry inherent risks, including oil spills, leaks, habitat destruction, and pollution, which could cause significant, long-term harm to our coastal economy, natural resources, and way of life; and

WHEREAS, even the perception of environmental risk associated with offshore drilling can negatively impact tourism, investment, and business development in coastal areas; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is developing the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program and has requested public input on whether to include new offshore leasing areas; and

WHEREAS, the protection of our coastal environment and economy is a priority for the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce, and the long-term well-being of our community outweighs the short-term benefits that expanded offshore drilling might offer to the oil and gas industry;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors of Carteret County, North Carolina, that:

1. The Carteret County Chamber of Commerce formally opposes the inclusion of any exploration like seismic blasting and new offshore oil and gas leasing off the coast of North Carolina in the 11th National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

2. The Carteret County Chamber of Commerce urges the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to prioritize the protection of coastal economies, communities, and ecosystems by excluding exploration and new offshore oil and gas leases from the final leasing program.

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3. The Carteret County Chamber of Commerce calls on our federal representatives in Congress to oppose efforts to expand offshore drilling and to support policies that protect our oceans, coasts, and the industries and communities that depend on them.

4. A copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Senators Thom Tillis and Ted Budd, Representative Greg Murphy, and other relevant officials.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors on this 6th day of June, 2025.

Will Rogers

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Board Chair

Erin Knight

President