

**A Resolution
of the
Bay County Chamber of Commerce**

**A Resolution of the Bay County Chamber of Commerce opposing any expansion of
offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico within or east of the Military Mission Line**

WHEREAS, the Bay County Chamber of Commerce supports the national goal of energy independence, pursuit of alternative energy sources and its members concur with the need to increase domestic offshore drilling;

And, the Chamber recognizes the need to achieve balance between the fulfillment of this important national strategy and the preservation of our environment and protection of military missions in Northwest Florida;

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

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

WHEREAS, offshore exploration activities, drilling and pipeline or platform construction would severely impact the critical military test and training missions, including air operations, surface and sub-surface activities.

WHEREAS, the military testing and training range in the Gulf of Mexico waters is the last and largest unfettered training range for the military in the United States and is an essential requirement for military missions in Northwest Florida;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bay County Chamber of Commerce strongly opposes any changes by the State of Florida regarding offshore drilling, above and below the surface, east of the Military Mission Line; and

Opposes a proposed amendment to the National Security Energy Act that would allow expansion of any offshore drilling above or below the surface of the Gulf of Mexico within and east of the Military Mission Line as it would severely impact the Department of Defense's extensive use of this area for diverse testing and training conducted there now and in the future.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Bay County Chamber of Commerce on this 15th day of October, 2009.



Sean McNeil, Chairman of Board



Carol Roberts, President/CEO

Bay County Chamber of Commerce

Bay County Chamber of Commerce