

# Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range Military Mission Line 2021 DSI Position Paper

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Prepared by



**DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE**  
OKALOOSA, SANTA ROSA AND WALTON COUNTIES

August 2021

c/o One Okaloosa EDC  
Post Office Box 4097, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549  
850-362-6467 [www.oneokaloosa.org](http://www.oneokaloosa.org)



**DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE**  
OKALOOSA, SANTA ROSA AND WALTON COUNTIES

August 29, 2021

Dear Sir / Madam:

The Defense Support Initiatives (DSI) Committee is a military installation advocacy group sponsored by the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County; DBA One Okaloosa EDC. It is comprised of 25 select retired military personnel, defense contractors and representatives of the seven Military Affairs Committees from Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties surrounding the Eglin Complex. The mission of the DSI is to support and promote the local military installations, missions and their positive economic contributions to the tri-county area.

As identified in the 2020 Florida Defense Factbook, northwest Florida installations contribute an annual economic impact exceeding \$22 Billion and generate over 209,000 jobs. Okaloosa County in Northwest Florida houses the largest Air Force installation in the Department of Defense; Eglin Air Force Base. Team Eglin contributes \$10B annually to the local economy and provides nearly 79,000 jobs. The 96th Test Wing, Eglin's host wing, is the test and evaluation center for Air Force air-delivered weapons, navigation and guidance systems, Command and Control systems, and AF Special Operations Command Systems. Team Eglin supports multi-service combat ready forces while delivering full spectrum support to DoD.

The 96th Test Wing manages the Eastern Gulf Test and Training Range (EGTTR; aka Eglin Gulf Test & Training Range, Joint Gulf Range). The EGTTR connects test & training ranges and capabilities across the eastern Gulf of Mexico extending from NW Florida to Key West. This multi-service training area supports simultaneous maritime, air and land training exercises. The EGTTR provides unique capabilities to test, train with, and evaluate high-altitude supersonic air combat training, air-to-air missile testing, drone targeting, hypersonic weapons testing, space launches/landings, and other activities. A 2012 Air Force Long Range Stand-Off Weapons study identified the EGTTR as the only U.S. continental range capable of supporting future technologically advanced weapons testing.

Due to its tremendous capabilities, the EGTTR complex is an integral part of DoD's Training Resources Strategy, is vital for testing the next generation of air armaments, and for training in conditions consistent with those expected in actual conflict. It is utilized by multiple users, including DoD, other government agencies, foreign partner countries, and private companies. Due to technological advancements, missions are being pushed farther from land into the Federal waters of the EGTTR as a result of increased utilization, faster and longer reaching telemetry, and larger safety footprint requirements. The 2021 RAND Institute analysis identified the EGTTR as a priority.

As a result of Team Eglin's collective mission and the EGTTR, Okaloosa County installations provide half of the total Northwest Florida region's military impact. Team Eglin's direct defense spending exceeds \$3.7 Billion, and provides the highest contribution in the Northwest Florida region towering at 61%—concurrent to the Northwest Florida region providing the state's highest overall regional defense impact at 23%.

Eight of the Top 10 national defense contractors have a presence in Okaloosa County supporting the highest defense personnel location in the state in 2019, and the highest personnel spending location at \$1.9 Billion annually.<sup>1</sup>

DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE  
OKALOOSA, SANTA ROSA AND WALTON COUNTIES

Defense contracting awards in the Northwest Florida region have grown by 28% since 2015 with a monetary value increase of 63% during the same time period. Okaloosa's contracting value exceeded \$1,428 Billion in 2020—more than double that of the other counties combined and at 75% for the region.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, with nearly 7,000 contract awards Okaloosa County supports 50% of all defense contract awards in the region. As stated earlier, the Northwest Florida region provides the largest economic impact contributions to the state's total military economy, and also offers the highest concentration of defense contracting jobs of all eight state regions.

2020 Defense Contracts

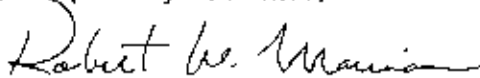
Escambia	\$ 357,382,333
Santa Rosa	\$ 85,665,657
Okaloosa	\$1,428,727,572
Walton	\$ 3,789,420
Holmes	\$ 7,015,443
Bay	\$ 2,177,824

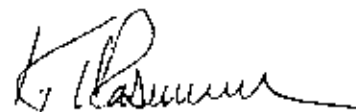
The EGTR, the largest test and training range in the continental United States, is identified by Department of Defense Directive as a *national asset* that cannot be replicated anywhere in the U.S.<sup>3</sup> Federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico by restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration since 1983 with a buffer zone; now defined by the Military Mission Line established in 2006. This mandated north-south Military Mission Line protects the EGTR from encroachment of activities incompatible with military missions. Oil drilling structures and associated exploratory activities, and wind turbine infrastructure east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact our military's readiness and compromise our nation's military superiority.

As weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, test and training ranges take on even greater importance in military capabilities and national security. The EGTR is a unique resource offering tremendous capabilities for joint test and training exercises. Due to its expansive size allowing for simultaneous maritime, air and land training exercises, the EGTR is an integral part of DoD's Training Resource Strategy.

Elimination of the MML would decrease the military capability/capacity in the EGTR. This regional position paper (consisting of 29 civic, private sector and public sector resolutions and proclamations) supports the United States military and defense strategy by extending the Military Mission Line moratorium and opposing any activities east of the MML that are deemed incompatible to the military mission. Congressional Members are respectfully requested to permanently extend protection of the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range and the Military Mission Line beyond 2022 by amending or replacing the current Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, extending the moratorium protection. Thank you for your consideration and continued service.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Robert Marinan, Lt Col Ret  
DSI Chairman

  
Kay Rasmussen, CECd  
DSI Manager

Attachments

<sup>1</sup> Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation – Defense Spending by State 2019

<sup>2</sup> USspending.gov

<sup>3</sup> Department of Defense Directive Number 3200.11; Office of the Secretary of Defense, Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, May 2018



- U.S. Military Ranges**
- Joint Gulf Range (aka, EGTR)
  - White Sands Missile Range
  - Utah Test & Training Range
  - Edwards Flight Test Range
  - NAWS China Lake
  - Nevada Test & Training Range



## Exhibits

### **EGTR MML Support**

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#### **Public Sector**

1. Florida Senate Resolution SR550
2. Escambia County Board of County Commissioners
3. Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners
4. Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners
5. Town of Cinco Bayou
6. City of Fort Walton Beach
7. City of Pensacola

#### **Private Sector**

8. Building Industry Association Okaloosa-Walton
9. Crestview Chamber of Commerce
10. Destin Chamber of Commerce
11. Defense Support Initiatives Committee
12. Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County
13. Eglin Federal Credit Union
14. Emerald Coast Association of Realtors
15. Emerald Coast Military Affairs Council
16. ERA American Real Estate
17. Florida's Great Northwest
18. Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce
19. Key West Chamber of Commerce
20. Navarre Area Chamber of Commerce
21. Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
22. Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council
23. Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce
24. Niceville-Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council
25. Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce
26. Santa Rosa County Military Affairs Committee
27. Technology Coast Manufacturing and Engineering Network
28. Walton Area Chamber of Commerce
29. Walton County Economic Development Alliance

By Senator Broxson

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Senate Resolution

A resolution supporting an extension of the current moratorium on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line.

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature represents the military bases and personnel that maintain, manage, and use the Gulf of Mexico Range Complex (GOMEX Range Complex) which provides for the common defense of this state and the nation, and

WHEREAS, defense is the State of Florida's fourth largest industry, accounting for more than 775,000 jobs, \$80 billion in economic impact, and 65 percent of the regional economy of Northwest Florida, and

WHEREAS, testing and training activities conducted from Florida's air and sea bases are considerably dependent on unconstrained access to the Eastern Gulf of Mexico airspace and seaspace, and

WHEREAS, the GOMEX Range Complex is a unique national resource, and

WHEREAS, the range is larger than all other training ranges inside the continental United States combined, stretching from the Florida Panhandle south to Key West and encompassing the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, and

WHEREAS, surrounding the GOMEX Range Complex are numerous United States Department of Defense installations, ranges, and airspaces, which make the complex unique, and

WHEREAS, originally a place to practice air-to-air engagements and air-to-surface bombing and strafing, the GOMEX Range Complex has served the nation for over 60 years, and

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30 WHEREAS, after World War II, the GOMEX Range Complex was  
31 used to test surface-to-air rockets against drones and, with the  
32 advent of fifth-generation aircraft at Tyndall and Eglin Air  
33 Force Bases, has been used extensively to test future weapons  
34 systems, and

35 WHEREAS, the military missions require day and night access  
36 to the airspace, from the surface up to 60,000 feet, for high-  
37 speed flying and maneuvering, as well as day and night access to  
38 the seaspace, from the sea surface to the subsurface areas, for  
39 use by ships and submarines, and

40 WHEREAS, the military uses live ammunition and missiles  
41 against remotely piloted full-scale targets and drones,  
42 resulting in large debris fields of dangerous objects, and

43 WHEREAS, for well over a decade and through two  
44 presidential administrations, the United States Department of  
45 Defense policy has been to keep the Eastern Gulf of Mexico free  
46 from obstruction, and

47 WHEREAS, oil exploration and offshore platforms placed in  
48 the Eastern Gulf of Mexico could jeopardize military missions  
49 and severely reduce the state's appeal in keeping military  
50 installations, and

51 WHEREAS, without access to airspace in order to test modern  
52 and emerging weapons systems and train the aircrews that support  
53 such systems, Florida would lose its primary reason for hosting  
54 the GOMEX Range Complex, and

55 WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) of  
56 2006 restricts oil and gas leasing in all areas east of the  
57 Military Mission Line established at 86°41' W. longitude and  
58 bans oil and gas leasing within 125 miles of the Florida

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59 coastline in the Eastern Planning Area and in a portion of the  
60 Central Planning Area until 2022, and

61 WHEREAS, attempts to reduce restrictions on oil and gas  
62 exploration and production arose in 2013 and 2015, when the  
63 members of the United States Senate and the United States House  
64 of Representatives developed and introduced bills to change  
65 GOMESA without addressing the military need to maintain the  
66 GOMEX Range Complex, and

67 WHEREAS, in 2013, the Offshore Energy and Jobs Act was  
68 introduced by United States Representative Doc Hastings of  
69 Washington to propose changes in oil and gas drilling and  
70 exploration locations, and

71 WHEREAS, the Offshore Energy and Jobs Act of 2015 was  
72 introduced by United States Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana,  
73 to increase oil and gas exploration and production, most notably  
74 through reducing the exclusion area east of the Military Mission  
75 Line from 125 miles to 50 miles offshore and through shortening  
76 the time limit of the moratorium from 2022 to 2017, but the bill  
77 ultimately did not advance past committee, and GOMESA remained  
78 intact for the time being, and

79 WHEREAS, the United States Secretary of Defense, the Chief  
80 of Staff of the United States Air Force, and fifteen members of  
81 the United States Congress from Florida have written letters  
82 requesting an extension to the moratorium, which is essential  
83 for developing and sustaining the military's future capabilities  
84 and for guaranteeing long-term capabilities for future test  
85 missions that may enable new technologies such as hypersonic  
86 fifth-generation fighters, advanced subsurface weapons systems,  
87 and other projects that require enlarged testing and training



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88 footprints well beyond 2022, and

89 WHEREAS, without the certainty of an extension to the  
90 moratorium, investment in upgrades in telemetry, tracking, and  
91 other important improvements are at risk, and

92 WHEREAS, in March 2017, twenty local county commissions,  
93 chambers of commerce, local economic development councils, and  
94 military affairs committees drafted resolutions in support of  
95 the moratorium and submitted them to the Florida Legislature,  
96 NOW, THEREFORE,

97

98 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

99

100 That the State of Florida must maintain a united front in  
101 supporting an extension of the current moratorium on drilling in  
102 the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line.

103 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to allow drilling east of the  
104 Military Mission Line would mean loss of range areas and  
105 possible relocation of aircraft and bases to other unrestricted  
106 range areas.

107 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Senate supports an  
108 indefinite extension of the restriction, specified in the Gulf  
109 of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, oil and gas leasing in  
110 all areas east of the Military Mission Line established at  
111 86°41' W. Longitude and indefinite extension of the Act's ban  
112 oil and gas leasing within 125 miles of the Florida coastline in  
113 the Eastern Planning Area and in a portion of the Central  
114 Planning Area.

5/4/2017 Resolution  
Action # 2

RESOLUTION NUMBER R2017-62

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO STAND STRONG AND UNITED AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT TO ALLOW OIL OR GAS DRILLING ALONG FLORIDA'S COASTLINE; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Florida's Legislative Delegation both in Congress and the Florida Legislature has long stood united against proposals for oil and gas drilling off the State's coasts; and

**WHEREAS**, across party lines, Florida's representatives have long recognized that the protection of Florida's fragile coastal ecology is vital to the state's economy, as well as its ecology, and have understood that, in Florida, the economy and the ecology are indeed inseparable; and

**WHEREAS**, routine offshore drilling operations discharge thousands of pounds of toxic chemicals into surrounding waters, smother bottom-dwelling organisms and sea grasses with cutting and debris, and generate large amounts of air pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, scientists have alerted the public to the presently unpredictable results of contaminating marine organisms and ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico, which are a vital part of the food chain throughout the Southeastern United States and the entire country; and

**WHEREAS**, the Deepwater-Horizon oil spill demonstrated the negative possibility, regardless of advances in safety and engineering, to jeopardize Florida's multi-billion-dollar tourism industry, and

**WHEREAS**, the northern Gulf of Mexico provides the U.S. military with the largest unimpeded test range in the country and a major reason for U.S military presence and commitment in nearly every county in Northwest Florida. Any drilling intrusion could jeopardize that test range and our military missions in Northwest Florida.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA:**

**Section 1:** That the above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by reference.

**Section 2:** That the Congress of the United States and the Legislature of the State of Florida are urged to stand strong and united against any attempt to allow oil or gas drilling along Florida's coastline.

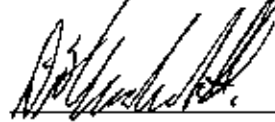
Date: 5/8/2017 Verified By: *[Signature]*

**Section 3:** That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Board of County Commissioners of Escambia County, Florida.

**Section 4:** The Clerk shall forward a copy of this Resolution to U. S. Senators Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio; U. S. Representative Matt Gaetz; State Senator Doug Broxson; State Representatives Clay Ingram, Frank White, and Jay Williamson

ADOPTED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

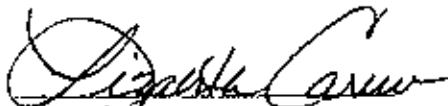


D. B. Underhill, Chairman

ATTEST: Pam Childers  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Date Executed

5/8/2017

  
Deputy Clerk

Approved as to form and legal  
sufficiency.

By/Title

Date: 5/3/17

RESOLUTION 20- 61

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA SUPPORTING SENATE BILL 13 AS PRESENTED DURING THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS.

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico plays a vital role in the United States' national defense, hosting several military operating areas collectively known as the Gulf of Mexico Range Complex that provide the space needed to safely and effectively test and evaluate weapons systems and undertake the training missions necessary to ensure that the United States' armed forces remain the best equipped and most well-trained in the world; and

WHEREAS, a May 2018 Pentagon Congressional report (*Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico*) states "The EGOMEX (eastern Gulf of Mexico) is an irreplaceable national asset. No other area offers the DoD (Department of Defense) a comparable combination of air space, water space, and existing infrastructure to support military activities," and

WHEREAS, the encroachment of oil production and related activities into, or proximate to, the Gulf Range conflicts with the training and other missions currently performed from military installations such as Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field, Tyndall Air Force Base, and other facilities, thereby degrading their usefulness to national defense and compromising their long term viability which could lead to loss of missions and other impacts that will have a significant negative effect on national defense as well as the local and regional economies; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the significance of the Gulf Test Range, Senator Marco Rubio has introduced an Act co-sponsored by Senator Rick Scott, Senate Bill 13, the Florida Shores Protection and Fairness Act, that would, among other things, extend the current moratorium on oil and gas leasing in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico presently set to expire on June 30, 2022 until June 30, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners find that it is in the best interests of the United States' national defense, as well as the regional and local economies, the tourism industry, and environmental quality that Senate Bill 13 be passed into law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Okaloosa County, Florida that:

1. The Board strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 13 as introduced in the 116<sup>th</sup> Session of Congress for the ongoing protection of the State of Florida and military operating areas within the Gulf of Mexico.
2. The Board opposes the opening of additional areas of the Gulf of Mexico, particularly the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Program Area and areas within the Gulf Testing Range, to oil exploration, production, and related activities that would threaten the economy and

CERTIFIED A TRUE  
AND CORRECT COPY

JD BEACOCK II  
CLERK CIRCUIT COURT

BY   
DEPUTY CLERK

DATE 4/29/2020





environment of Florida, or that would in any way degrade the usefulness of the Gulf of Mexico Range complex to the armed forces of the United States of America.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 28th DAY OF APRIL, 2020.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:    
Robert A. "Frey" Goodwin III, Chairman

ATTEST:

By:    
J.D. Peacock II  
Clerk of Circuit Court

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By:   
Lynn M. Hoshinara  
County Attorney

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA OPPOSING THE OPENING OF AREAS WITHIN THE GULF OF MEXICO EAST OF THE MILITARY MISSION LINE TO OIL EXPLORATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD THREATEN THE ECOLOGY AND ECONOMY OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY AND THE GULF REGION, AND THAT WOULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE UTILITY OF THE MILITARY'S GULF OF MEXICO RANGE COMPLEX AND THEREBY THREATEN THE VIABILITY OF THE MISSIONS FOR NAS WHITING FIELD, NAS PENSACOLA, EGLIN AFB, HURLBURT FIELD, TYNDALL AFB AND OTHER MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE GULF REGION.

WHEREAS, the military presence has been and continues to be the foundation of much of Northwest Florida's and Santa Rosa County's economy contributing \$18.8 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico plays a vital role in the national defense of the United States, hosting several Military Operating Areas (MOAs) collectively known as the Gulf of Mexico Range Complex that provides the space needed to safely and effectively test and evaluate weapons systems and undertake the training missions necessary to ensure that America's Armed Forces remain the best equipped and most well trained in the world; and

WHEREAS, the encroachment of oil production and related activities into, or proximate to, the Gulf Range conflicts with the training and other missions currently performed from military installations such as NAS Whiting Field, NAS Pensacola, Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, Tyndall AFB and other facilities thereby degrading their usefulness to national defense and compromising their long term viability and posing potential degradation to mission effectiveness as well as negative impacts to the local and regional economy; and

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico Energy and Security Act of 2006 establishes protective zones within the Gulf of Mexico within which oil exploration and related activities are prohibited in order to protect the natural environment and military missions crucial to Santa Rosa County, the region and communities along the Gulf Coast; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Offshore Production and Energizing National Security Act of 2015 reduces the protected areas within the Gulf of Mexico established by the 2006 Act, thereby threatening the viability of military activities and missions within the Gulf.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA STRONGLY OPPOSES THE REDUCTION OF THE PROTECTIONS FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND MILITARY OPERATING AREAS AFFORDED UNDER THE GULF OF MEXICO ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2006 AS PROPOSED BY THE OFFSHORE PRODUCTION AND ENERGIZING ACT OF 2015, AND FURTHER OPPOSES THE OPENING OF ADDITIONAL AREAS OF THE GULF OF MEXICO EAST OF THE MILITARY MISSION LINE TO OIL EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, AND RELATED ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD THREATEN THE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OF FLORIDA, OR THAT WOULD IN ANY WAY DEGRADE THE USEFULNESS OF AND ACCESS TO THE GULF OF MEXICO RANGE COMPLEX BY THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners on a vote of 5 yeas, 0 nays, and 0 absent, in regular session, this 24th day of September 2015.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Don Salter  
Don Salter, Chairman

ATTEST:

Donald C. Spencer  
Donald C. Spencer, Clerk of Courts





# SANTA ROSA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Administrative Offices | 6495 Caroline Street, Suite M | Milton, Florida 32570-4592

SAM PARKET, District 1  
ROBERT A. "BOB" COLE, District 2  
W. D. "DON" SALTER, District 3  
DAVE PIECH, District 4  
R. LANE LYNCHARD, District 5

DAN SCHUELER, County Administrator  
ROY V. ANDREWS, County Attorney  
MARK MURRAY, Asst. County Attorney

March 16, 2020

Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Chair, Senate Energy & Natural Resources  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski;

As a citizen of Santa Rosa County, Florida, I strongly urge that you protect the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range (EGTTR) from oil & gas exploration and drilling. This area is a military range essential to our military's readiness. The EGTTR connects test & training capabilities from NW Florida to Key West and is heavily used by all service branches.

In a May 9, 2018 letter, the Under Secretary of Defense stated "The eastern Gulf of Mexico continues to be a strategic national asset critical to the lethality of our weapons systems and the readiness of our Service members; hence it is a vital component to harnessing the power of advanced technologies required to support our National Defense Strategy". Additionally, a May 2018 Pentagon Congressional report (Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico) states, "The eastern Gulf of Mexico is an irreplaceable national asset. No other area offers DOD a comparable combination of air space, water space and existing infrastructure to support military activities".

While drilling advocates have cited a potential economic benefit by opening the eastern Gulf including 56,000 new jobs and \$2.6 billion in annual revenue, the resultant loss would be many times greater. The January 2020 Florida Defense Factbook credits Eglin AFB in NW Florida as providing an economic impact annually of \$9 billion and 78,000 jobs. The current economic benefit to our area would be at risk, not to mention the risk to our national security, if oil drilling was allowed in the military test and training range.

Oil drilling structures and associated exploratory activities have been identified as being incompatible with military activities. I respectfully request your strong support in continuing to protect this national asset.

Sincerely,

Don Salter, Chairman  
Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners  
Santa Rosa County Military Advisory Committee

Cc: Senator Jack Reed  
Senator Doug Jones  
Senator James Inhofe  
Senator Marco Rubio  
Senator Rick Scott

RESOLUTION NO. 2017 – 09

A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CINCO BAYOU'S OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING

**WHEREAS**, the United States government has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas development and exploration, including risky methods such as seismic airgun blasting; and,

**WHEREAS**, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean, every 10-12 seconds for days, weeks, or months on end; and,

**WHEREAS**, seismic airgun noise has been shown to harm and injure dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and,

**WHEREAS**, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of oil spills and chronic leakage; and,

**WHEREAS**, eventual offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of the coast; and,

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Florida's Coasts, which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, provide essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and,

**WHEREAS**, the TOWN OF CINCO BAYOU recognizes that the tourism and fishing industries, which depend on a healthy and vibrant coastal environment, both serve as major economic drivers benefiting the current and future residents, property owners, and visitors to Florida; and,

**WHEREAS**, the TOWN OF CINCO BAYOU endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, exploration and development of oil and gas resources off the coast of Florida will not effectively address the long-term energy needs of our country; and,

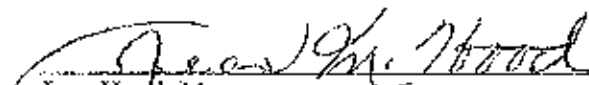
**WHEREAS**, the TOWN OF CINCO BAYOU recommends that it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy such as solar and wind, that pose less risk to the coastal environment and economic health before using uncertain methods of seismic airgun blasting for offshore oil and gas deposits.

**NOW THEREFORE**, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF CINCO BAYOU THAT:

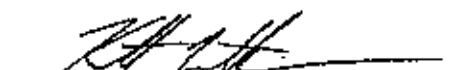
Offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk; therefore the Council expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast.

**ADOPTED THIS DAY OCTOBER 12, 2017**

APPROVED

  
Jean Hood, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Keith Williams, Town Manager/Clerk





## **RESOLUTION 2017-9**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the United States government has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas development and exploration, including risky methods such as seismic airgun blasting; and,

**WHEREAS**, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean, every 10-12 seconds for days, weeks, or months on end; and,

**WHEREAS**, seismic airgun noise has been shown to harm and injure dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and,

**WHEREAS**, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of oil spills and chronic leakage; and,

**WHEREAS**, eventual offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of the coast; and,

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Florida's Coasts, which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, provide essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fort Walton Beach recognizes that the tourism and fishing industries, which depend on a healthy and vibrant coastal environment, both serve as major economic drivers benefiting the current and future residents, property owners, and visitors to Florida; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fort Walton Beach endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, exploration and development of oil and gas resources off the coast of Florida will not effectively address the long-term energy needs of our country; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fort Walton Beach recommends that it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy such as solar and wind, that pose less risk to the coastal environment and economic health before using uncertain methods of seismic airgun blasting for offshore oil and gas deposits.

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Fort Walton Beach, Florida, as follows:

## RESOLUTION 2017-9

### Section 1. Incorporation of Recitals.

The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein.

### Section 2. Opposition of City Council.

Offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk, therefore, the City Council expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast.

### Section 3. Authorization.

The Mayor is hereby designated and authorized to execute any documents related to this Resolution, and upon approval, a copy will be provided to the Florida Congressional Delegation.

### Section 4. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon approval by the City Council.

Adopted:

June 27, 2017

Richard A. Rynearson  
Richard A. Rynearson, Mayor

Attest:

Kim M. Barnes  
Kim M. Barnes, City Clerk

Approved for form, legal sufficiency

Hayward Dykes, Jr.  
Hayward Dykes, Jr., City Attorney



RESOLUTION  
NO. 17-23

A RESOLUTION  
TO BE ENTITLED:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA, OPPOSING OFFSHORE  
DRILLING ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN  
BLASTING

WHEREAS, the United States government has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas development and exploration, including risky methods such as seismic airgun blasting; and,

WHEREAS, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean, every 10-12 seconds for days, weeks, or months on end; and,

WHEREAS, seismic airgun noise has been shown to harm and injure dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and,

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of oil spills and chronic leakage; and,

WHEREAS, eventual offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of the coast; and,

WHEREAS, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Florida's Coasts, which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, provide essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and,

WHEREAS, the Pensacola City Council recognizes that the tourism and fishing industries, which depend on a healthy and vibrant coastal environment, both serve as major economic drivers benefiting the current and future residents, property owners, and visitors to Florida; and,

WHEREAS, the Pensacola City Council endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and,


WHEREAS, exploration and development of oil and gas resources off the coast of Florida will not effectively address the long-term energy needs of our country; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA:


SECTION 1. Offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk; therefore the Council expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall become effective on the fifth business day after adoption, unless otherwise provided pursuant to Section 4.03(d) of the City Charter of the City of Pensacola.

Adopted: May 11, 2017

Approved:   
President of City Council

Attest:

  
City Clerk

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**PRESIDENT**  
Jeremy Stewart

**PAST PRESIDENT**  
Doug Liles

**1st VICE PRESIDENT**  
Rick Goff

**TREASURER**  
Terry Hymel

**2nd VICE PRESIDENT**  
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**SECRETARY**  
Jason Carducci

**PAST 2nd VICE PRESIDENT**  
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Ferrin Campbell  
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Betty Sims  
Marion Rachel Skalicky  
Christine Swails  
Brian Walsh

April 22, 2020

Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman, Senate Energy & Natural Resources  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

The Building Industry Association of Okaloosa - Walton County, Florida wishes to express our strong desire to protect the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range from drilling and related activities. While energy independence is a worthy objective, drilling and exploratory activities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico threatens both our nation's security and, with more than 78,000 local jobs tied to the defense sector, our county's economy.

It is widely recognized that the Gulf Range is a national treasure, unable to be replicated anywhere else in the continental United States. These sentiments were confirmed when, in a May 09, 2018 letter, the Under Secretary of Defense wrote:

*"The eastern Gulf of Mexico continues to be a strategic national asset critical to the lethality of our weapon systems and the readiness of our Service members; hence it is a vital component to harnessing the power of the advanced technologies required to support our National Defense Strategy."*

Similarly, a May 2018 Pentagon Congressional report (Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico) states:

*"The EGOMEX (eastern Gulf of Mexico) is an irreplaceable national asset. No other area offers the DoD (Department of Defense) a comparable combination of air space, water space, and existing infrastructure to support military activities."*

While drilling advocates have cited a potential economic impact resulting from drilling activities in the eastern Gulf as near 56,000 jobs and \$2.6 billion in annual revenue; the resultant loss would be much greater. The January 2020 Florida Defense Factbook sites Eglin Air Force Base in NW Florida as providing an impact of over \$9 billion annually and over 78,000 jobs. That economic impact would be at risk, not to mention our national security, if drilling and related exploratory activities were allowed in the EGOMEX military training range.

Oil drilling structures and associated exploratory activities east of the MML have been identified as being incompatible with military activities, would negatively impact our military's readiness and compromise our nation's military superiority. We respectfully request your support in continuing to protect this American asset by passing Senate Bill 13, Florida Shores Protection and Fairness Act.

Respectfully,



Jeremy Stewart  
President



Alan Baggett  
Executive Vice President

CC:  
Senator Jack Reed, Senator Doug Jones, Senator James Inhofe  
Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Rick Scott



**THE BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
OF OKALOOSA & WALTON COUNTIES, INC.**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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**PAST PRESIDENT**  
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**1st VICE PRESIDENT**  
Andy Wilson

**TREASURER**  
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**2nd VICE PRESIDENT**  
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**SECRETARY**  
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**PAST 2nd VICE PRESIDENT**  
Garrett Floyd

**PRESIDENTIAL APPT.**  
Debbie Moore

**PRESIDENTIAL APPT.**  
Betty Sims

**PRESIDENTIAL APPT.**  
Glenn Langan

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Bobby Fisher  
Rick Goff  
Chris Taylor  
Kevin Reeves  
Marion Ruckel Skalicky  
Jeremy Stewart  
Scott Wagner

*A resolution of the Building Industry Association of Okaloosa – Walton Counties, Inc. (BIA) pledging protection of the eastern Joint Gulf Range Complex, and sustainment of the federally protected Military Mission Line.*

**WHEREAS**, the BIA is the organization representing the construction industry in Okaloosa and Walton Counties.

**WHEREAS**, the 2015 Florida Defense Handbook reported the annual economic impact of the military presence in Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties exceeded \$10,007,000,000; accounting for more than 85,000 jobs in the three counties.

**WHEREAS**, Eglin's Joint Gulf Range Complex in the eastern Gulf of Mexico is regarded as a national security asset for multi-service test and training missions. Since 1983 federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico by providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line established in 2000, restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration. This mandated Military Mission Line (86°-41') protects the military Joint Gulf Range Complex allowing for real-time testing and training preparing to defend our national security.

**WHEREAS**, drilling structures and associated activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact our military's readiness, compromise our nation's military superiority, and threaten our economic vitality.

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Gulf Range Complex is taking on even greater importance and threats for our nation's security as a result of technology advancements. Test and training ranges take on even greater significance as newer weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and longer-reaching. Current defense ranges need to be sustained and enhanced to meet the growing demands of our future military readiness.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the BIA that:

The BIA supports the Joint Gulf Range Complex and operating areas thereby sustaining the nation's military superiority. The BIA opposes any oil exploration, drilling or related activities east of the Military Mission Line that would negatively impact the military's utilization of the Joint Gulf Range Complex for required test and training.

The BIA supports the continued enforcement of the MML beyond the existing 2022 moratorium in order to ensure our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised. The BIA requests Legislators extend protection of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Military Mission Line beyond 2022 by amending the current Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA) to permanently enact the moratorium.

**ADOPTED** on the 16 day of February 2017.

**APPROVED BY:**

*Terry Hymel*

Terry Hymel  
2017 BIA President

**WITNESSED BY:**

*Alan Baggett*

Alan Baggett  
Executive Vice President





July 2, 2020

Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman, Senate Energy & Natural Resources  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator

As the Chairman of the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce, located in Okaloosa County, Florida I speak for our Board of Directors when I say we strongly express our desire to protect the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range from drilling and related activities. While there can be agreement that energy independence is important, drilling and exploratory activities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico threatens our national security. This area is a military range essential to our military's success and critically important to delivering the required capabilities to our men & women deployed overseas. The Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range (EGTTR) connects test & training capabilities from NW Florida to Key West and is utilized by Eglin AFB, Tyndall AFB, other military branches, installations, government agencies, and private companies.

In a May 09, 2018 letter, the Under Secretary of Defense wrote "The eastern Gulf of Mexico continues to be a strategic national asset critical to the lethality of our weapon systems and the readiness of our Service members; hence it is a vital component to harnessing the power of the advanced technologies required to support our National Defense Strategy." In addition, a May 2018 Pentagon Congressional report (Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico) states, "The EGOMEX (eastern Gulf of Mexico) is an irreplaceable national asset. No other area offers the DoD (Department of Defense) a comparable combination of air space, water space, and existing infrastructure to support military activities."

The EGOMEX has long been recognized as a key location to train our warfighters, and to test the newest weapons, munitions, and armaments for all military services and many of our allies. The need to protect this national asset was formally codified into Public Law 109-432 on December 20, 2006 with signing of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA 2006); thus creating the Military Mission Line encroachment buffering moratorium..

While drilling advocates have sited a potential economic impact resulting from drilling activities in the eastern Gulf as near 56,000 jobs and \$2.6 billion in annual revenue; the resultant loss would be much greater. The January 2020 Florida Defense Factbook sites Eglin Air Force Base in NW Florida as providing an impact of over \$9 billion annually and over 78,000 jobs. The state of Florida offers \$95 billion and 914,787 jobs! That economic impact would be at risk, not to mention our national security, if drilling and related exploratory activities were allowed in the EGOMEX military training range.

Oil drilling structures and associated exploratory activities east of the MML have been identified as being incompatible with military activities, would negatively impact our military's readiness and compromise our nation's military superiority. We/I respectfully request your support in continuing to protect this American asset by passing Senate Bill 13, Florida Shores Protection and Fairness Act.

Respectfully,

Ryan Price:

  
Chairman of the Board

CC:

Senator Jack Reed  
Ranking Member, SASC  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Doug Jones  
Member, SASC  
330 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator James Inhofe  
Chairman, SASC  
205 Russell Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Marco Rubio  
284 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Rick Scott  
716 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510



***A resolution of the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce, pledging protection of the eastern Joint Gulf Range Complex, and sustainment of the federally protected Military Mission Line.***

**WHEREAS**, the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce is the community's largest Networking Business Organization.

**WHEREAS**, the 2015 Florida Defense Handbook reported the annual economic impact of the military presence in Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties exceeded \$10,007,000,000; accounting for more than 85,000 jobs in the three counties.

**WHEREAS**, Eglin's Joint Gulf Range Complex in the eastern Gulf of Mexico is regarded as a national security asset for multi-service test and training missions. Since 1983 federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico by providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line established in 2000, restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration. This mandated Military Mission Line (86°-41') protects the military Joint Gulf Range Complex allowing for real-time testing and training preparing to defend our national security.

**WHEREAS**, drilling structures and associated activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact our military's readiness, compromise our nation's military superiority, and threaten our economic vitality.

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Gulf Range Complex is taking on even greater importance and threats for our nation's security as a result of technology advancements. Test and training ranges take on even greater significance as newer weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and longer-reaching. Current defense ranges need to be sustained and enhanced to meet the growing demands of our future military readiness.


**NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce that:**

The Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce supports the Joint Gulf Range Complex and operating areas thereby sustaining the nation's military superiority. The Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce opposes any oil exploration, drilling or related activities east of the Military Mission Line that would negatively impact the military's utilization of the Joint Gulf Range Complex for required test and training.

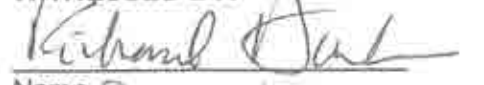
The Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce supports the continued enforcement of the MML beyond the existing 2022 moratorium in order to ensure our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised. The Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce requests Legislators extend protection of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Military Mission Line beyond 2022 by amending the current Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA) to permanently enact the moratorium.

**ADOPTED on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2017.**

**APPROVED BY:**

  
Name Valerie Lott  
Title President & CEO

**WITNESSED BY:**

  
Name Richard Harless  
Title Board Member





**THE DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES**  
Okaloosa—Santa Rosa—Walton Counties

January 16, 2020

Senator James Inhofe  
Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee  
205 Russel Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Military Mission Line

Dear Senator Inhofe

On behalf of the tri-county Defense Support Initiatives Committee representing community and business leaders, retired military personnel and Military Affairs Committees, we strongly express our desire to protect the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range from drilling and related activities. While there can be agreement that energy independence is important, the critical questions are How and Where? Drilling and exploratory activities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico threatens our national security. This area is a military range essential to our military's success and critically important to delivering the required capabilities to our men & women deployed overseas. The Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range (EGTTR) connects test & training capabilities from NW Florida to Key West and is utilized by Eglin AFB, Tyndall AFB, other military branches, installations, government agencies, and private companies.

In a May 09, 2018 letter, the Under Secretary of Defense wrote "The eastern Gulf of Mexico continues to be a strategic national asset critical to the lethality of our weapon systems and the readiness of our Service members; hence it is a vital component to harnessing the power of the advanced technologies required to support our National Defense Strategy." In addition, a May 2018 Pentagon Congressional report (Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico) states, "The EGOMEX (eastern Gulf of Mexico) is an irreplaceable national asset. No other area offers the DoD a comparable combination of air space, water space, and existing infrastructure to support military activities."

The EGOMEX has long been recognized as a key location to train our warfighters, and to test the newest weapons, munitions, and armaments for all military services and many of our allies. Protection of this national asset was formally codified into Public Law 109-432 on December 20, 2006 with the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA 2006); thus creating the Military Mission Line encroachment buffering moratorium.

While drilling advocates have sited a potential economic impact resulting from drilling activities in the eastern Gulf as near 56,000 jobs and \$2.6 billion in annual revenue; the resultant loss would be much greater. The January 2020 Florida Defense Factbook sites Eglin Air Force Base in NW Florida as providing an impact of over \$9 Billion annually and over 78,000 jobs. The state of Florida offers \$95 Billion and 914,787 jobs! That economic impact would be at risk, not to mention our national security, if drilling and related exploratory activities were allowed in the EGOMEX military training range.

Oil drilling structures and associated exploratory activities east of the MML have been identified as being incompatible with military activities, would negatively impact our military's readiness and compromise our nation's military superiority. We respectfully request your support in continuing to protect this American asset by passing Senate Bill 13, Florida Shores Protection and Fairness Act.

Sincerely,

  
Robert Marinan, Lt Col USAF (Ret)  
Chairman

  
Kay Rasmussen, CECD  
Manager

CC: Senator Jack Reed      Senator Marco Rubio  
      Senator Rick Scott     Senator Doug Jones



**DEFENSE SUPPORT INITIATIVES COMMITTEE**  
OKALOOSA, SANTA ROSA AND WALTON COUNTIES

*A resolution of the Defense Support Initiatives committee supporting sustainment of the federally protected Military Mission Line, and opposing any offshore drilling activities, or wind turbine infrastructure in the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range.*

**WHEREAS**, the Defense Support Initiatives (DSI) sponsored by the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, DBA One Okaloosa EDC, is recognized as the lead military issues advocacy group representing Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties. These three counties serve as home for NAS Whiting Field, Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, and Duke Field hosting multiple joint service units and missions.

**WHEREAS**, the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range is identified by the Department of Defense as a national security asset for test and training missions. Multi-service test and training activities are conducted in the EGTTR, the largest test and training area in the nation, offering unique features that cannot be replicated anywhere in the United States.

**WHEREAS**, since 1983 Federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line established in 2000, restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration east of the line. This mandated Military Mission Line (86°-41') prevents encroachment on military activities allowing for real-time testing and training of advanced weapons systems for our national security.

**WHEREAS**, wind turbines, drilling structures and any activities incompatible with military missions east of the MML would negatively impact our military's readiness and compromise our nation's military superiority. The full-spectrum readiness role the range provides is critical and needs to be protected with encroachment mitigation allowing for enhanced test and training capabilities well into the future.

**WHEREAS**, test and training ranges take on even greater significance to our national security as newer weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and longer-reaching. Current defense ranges need to be sustained and enhanced to meet the growing demands of future military readiness.

**NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Defense Support Initiatives Committee that:**

The DSI opposes degrading the military usefulness of the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range. The DSI maintains its official position established in 2009 and opposes any activity east of the Military Mission Line that would negatively impact the military's utilization of the Gulf Range; to include oil exploration, drilling, infrastructure and related activities

The DSI supports the continued enforcement of the MML beyond the existing 2022 moratorium in order to ensure our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised. The DSI requests Legislators extend protection of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Military Mission Line beyond 2022 by amending the current Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA) to permanently enact the moratorium.

**ADOPTED on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.**

**APPROVED BY:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert W. Mariani', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Mariani, Lt Col USAF Ret.  
DSI Chairman

**WITNESSED BY:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kay Rasmussen', written over a horizontal line.

Kay Rasmussen, CECD  
DSI Manager



Advocating for Businesses – Strengthening our Community

RESOLUTION 2017 – 02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE DESTIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO AS IT RELATES TO THE PROTECTION OF THE BEACHES, TOURISM AND THE MILITARY MISSION LINE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Destin Chamber of Commerce is a business organization representing approximately 950 members in the Destin area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Destin Chamber of Commerce is fully cognizant of the need to explore for new energy sources; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the Destin area is largely dependent upon the tourism industry, making our natural resources, our beaches and the Gulf of Mexico vital to our economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Destin Chamber understands the importance of the local military bases to the defense and protection of our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1983 federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico by providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line established in 2000, restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration. This mandated Military Mission Line (86o-41') protects the military Joint Gulf Range Complex allowing for real-time testing and training for our national security; and


**WHEREAS**, drilling structures and associated activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact our military's readiness, compromise our nation's military superiority, and threaten our economic vitality; and


**WHEREAS**, test and training ranges take on even greater significance to our national security as newer weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and longer-reaching. Current defense ranges need to be sustained and enhanced to meet the growing demands of future military readiness.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Destin Chamber Board of Directors opposes offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico so that we may preserve and protect our tourism industry and the MML for military training purposes that protect the United States of America.

**SO RESOLVED THIS 24<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2017.**

**ATTEST:**

  
Shane A. Moody, FCCP, CCE  
President and CEO

  
BY:  
Lockwood Wernet  
Chairman of the Board



April 17, 2020

Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman, Senate Energy & Natural Resources  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

The Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, Florida wishes to express our strong desire to protect the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range from drilling and related activities. While energy independence is a worthy objective, drilling and exploratory activities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico threatens both our nation's security and, with more than 78,000 local jobs tied to the defense sector, our county's economy.

It is widely recognized that the Gulf Range is a national treasure, unable to be replicated anywhere else in the continental United States. These sentiments were confirmed when, in a May 09, 2018 letter, the Under Secretary of Defense wrote:

*"The eastern Gulf of Mexico continues to be a strategic national asset critical to the lethality of our weapon systems and the readiness of our Service members; hence it is a vital component to harnessing the power of the advanced technologies required to support our National Defense Strategy."*

Similarly, a May 2018 Pentagon Congressional report (Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico) states:

*"The EGOMEX (eastern Gulf of Mexico) is an irreplaceable national asset. No other area offers the DoD (Department of Defense) a comparable combination of air space, water space, and existing infrastructure to support military activities."*

While drilling advocates have cited a potential economic impact resulting from drilling activities in the eastern Gulf as near 56,000 jobs and \$2.6 billion in annual revenue; the resultant loss would be much greater. The January 2020 Florida Defense Factbook sites Eglin Air Force Base in NW Florida as providing an impact of over \$9 billion annually and over 78,000 jobs. That economic impact would be at risk, not to mention our national security, if drilling and related exploratory activities were allowed in the EGOMEX military training range.

Oil drilling structures and associated exploratory activities east of the MML have been identified as being incompatible with military activities, would negatively impact our military's readiness and compromise our nation's military superiority. We respectfully request your support in continuing to protect this American asset by passing Senate Bill 13, Florida Shores Protection and Fairness Act.

Respectfully,

  
Katie Sharon  
Chair

  
Nathan Spark, CEcD  
Executive Director

CC:

Senator Jack Reed, Senator Doug Jones, Senator James Inhofe  
Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Rick Scott



Economic Development Council  
of Okaloosa County, Florida

***A resolution of the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County pledging protection of the eastern Joint Gulf Range Complex, and sustainment of the federally protected Military Mission Line.***

**WHEREAS**, the Economic Development Council is the community's primary organization tasked with improving the area's economy through the attraction and retention of new, diversified employment opportunities and capital investments.

**WHEREAS**, the 2015 Florida Defense Handbook reported the annual economic impact of the military presence in Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties exceeded \$10,007,000,000; accounting for more than 85,000 jobs in the three counties. Okaloosa tops \$8.8 Billion with over 72,000 jobs alone.

**WHEREAS**, Eglin's Joint Gulf Range Complex in the eastern Gulf of Mexico is regarded as a national security asset for multi-service test and training missions. Since 1983 federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico by providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line established in 2000, restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration. This mandated Military Mission Line (86°-41') protects the military Joint Gulf Range Complex allowing for real-time testing and training in preparation to defend our national security.

**WHEREAS**, drilling structures and associated activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact our military's readiness, compromise our nation's military superiority, and threaten our economic vitality.

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Gulf Range Complex is taking on even greater importance and threats as a result of technological advancements. Test and training ranges take on even greater significance as newer weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and longer-reaching. Current defense ranges need to be sustained and enhanced to meet the growing demands of our future military readiness.

**NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Economic Development Council that:**

The EDC supports the Joint Gulf Range Complex and operating areas thereby sustaining the nation's military superiority. The EDC opposes any oil exploration, drilling or related activities east of the Military Mission Line that would negatively impact the military's utilization of the Joint Gulf Range Complex for required test and training.

The EDC supports the continued enforcement of the MML beyond the existing 2022 moratorium in order to ensure our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised. The EDC respectfully requests Legislators extend protection of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Military Mission Line beyond 2022 by amending the current Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA) to permanently enact the moratorium.

**ADOPTED on the 17 day of February 2017.**

**APPROVED BY:**

  
Kelly Murphy-Redd, CEcD  
Chairman

**WITNESSED BY:**

  
Nathan Sparks, CEcD  
Executive Director



# EGLIN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

838 Eglin Parkway NE • Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547-2781  
850.862.0111 [www.egfinfcu.org](http://www.egfinfcu.org)

JERRY B. WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT/CEO

January 16, 2020  
Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman, Senate Energy & Natural Resources  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

As President/CEO a federally-chartered credit union located in Okaloosa County, Florida, that serves Eglin Air Force Base and the surrounding military installations, I strongly express my desire to protect the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range from drilling and related activities. While there can be agreement that energy independence is important, the critical questions are How and Where? Drilling and exploratory activities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico threatens our national security. This area is a military range essential to our military's success and critically important to delivering the required capabilities to our men & women deployed overseas. The Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range (EGTTR) connects test & training capabilities from NW Florida to Key West and is utilized by Eglin AFB, Tyndall AFB, other military branches, installations, government agencies, and private companies.

In a May 09, 2018 letter, the Under Secretary of Defense wrote "The eastern Gulf of Mexico continues to be a strategic national asset critical to the lethality of our weapon systems and the readiness of our Service members; hence it is a vital component to harnessing the power of the advanced technologies required to support our National Defense Strategy." In addition, a May 2018 Pentagon Congressional report (Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico) states, "The EGOMEX (eastern Gulf of Mexico) is an irreplaceable national asset. No other area offers the DoD (Department of Defense) a comparable combination of air space, water space, and existing infrastructure to support military activities."

The EGOMEX has long been recognized as a key location to train our warfighters, and to test the newest weapons, munitions, and armaments for all military services and many of our allies. The need to protect this national asset was formally codified into Public Law 109-432 on December 20, 2006 with signing of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA 2006) thus creating the Military Mission Line encroachment buffering moratorium.

While drilling advocates have sited a potential economic impact resulting from drilling activities in the eastern Gulf as near 56,000 jobs and \$2.6 billion in annual revenue; the resultant loss would be much greater. The January 2020 Florida Defense Factbook sites Eglin Air Force Base in NW Florida as providing an impact of over \$9 billion annually and over 78,000 jobs. The state of Florida offers \$95 billion and 914,787 jobs! That economic impact would be at risk, not to mention our national security, if drilling and related exploratory activities were allowed in the EGOMEX military training range.

Oil drilling structures and associated exploratory activities east of the MML have been identified as being incompatible with military activities, would negatively impact our military's readiness and compromise our nation's military superiority. We/I respectfully request your support in continuing to protect this American asset by passing Senate Bill 13, Florida Shores Protection and Fairness Act.

Respectfully,

Jerry B. Williams

CC: Senator Jack Reed  
Senator Marco Rubio

Senator Doug Jones  
Senator Rick Scott

Senator James Inhofe



# EMERALD COAST ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®



10 Hollywood Blvd., S.E. ~ Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 ~ Phone: 850.243.6145 ~ Fax: 850.243.6147

**A resolution of the Emerald Coast Association of REALTORS® is opposing any oil drilling or exploration in the Joint Gulf Range Complex, and sustainment of the federally protected Military Mission Line.**

**WHEREAS**, the Emerald Coast Association of REALTORS® (ECAR) is to assist the members in achieving an exemplary level of professionalism, integrity, and fair business practice and providing its members with the best available education, products, and services they need to succeed. To protect private property rights, influence legislation, and to be recognized as involved citizens of the community.

**WHEREAS**, housing Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Field, the military economic impact in Okaloosa County topped \$8.8 Billion in 2015 and provided over 72,000 jobs. The Eglin Joint Gulf Range Complex in the eastern Gulf of Mexico is regarded as a national security asset for multi-service test and training missions. With technology advancements, the Joint Gulf Range Complex is taking on even greater importance for our nation's security.

**WHEREAS**, since 1983 the federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico by providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line established in 2000, restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration. This mandated Military Mission Line (86 degrees -41') protects the military Joint Gulf Range Complex allowing for the real-time testing and training for our national security.

**WHEREAS**, drilling structures and associated activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact our military's readiness, compromise our nation's military superiority, and threaten our economic vitality.

**WHEREAS**, test and training ranges take on even greater significance to our national security as newer weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and longer reaching. Current defense ranges need to be sustained and enhanced to meet the growing demands of future military readiness.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Emerald Coast Association of REALTORS® that:

ECAR opposes degrading the military usefulness of the Joint Gulf Range Complex and operating areas thereby reducing the nation's military superiority. ECAR opposes any oil exploration, drilling, or related activities east of the Military Mission Line that would negatively impact the military's utilization of the Joint Gulf Range Complex for required test and training.

ECAR supports the continued enforcement of the MML beyond the existing 2022 moratorium in order to ensure our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised. ECAR requests Legislators extended protection of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Military Mission Line beyond 2022 by amending the current Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA) to permanently enact the moratorium.

ADOPTED on the 16 day of February 2017.

APPROVED BY:      WITNESSED BY:

Terry Pilcher  
President  
Emerald Coast Association of REALTORS®

A. Keith Dean, CPA  
Chief Executive Officer  
Emerald Coast Association of REALTORS®



## EMERALD COAST MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

P.O. Box 116, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-0116

May 1, 2020

Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman, Senate Energy & Natural Resources  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

The Emerald Coast Military Affairs Council wishes to express our strong desire to protect the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range from drilling and related activities. While energy independence is a worthy objective, drilling and exploratory activities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico threatens both our nation's security and, with more than 78,000 local jobs tied to the defense sector, our county's economy. It is widely recognized that the Gulf Range is a national treasure, unable to be replicated anywhere else in the continental United States. These sentiments were confirmed when, in a May 09, 2018 letter, the Under Secretary of Defense wrote:

*"The eastern Gulf of Mexico continues to be a strategic national asset critical to the lethality of our weapon systems and the readiness of our Service members; hence it is a vital component to harnessing the power of the advanced technologies required to support our National Defense Strategy."*


Similarly, a May 2018 Pentagon Congressional report (Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico) states:

*"The EGOMEX (eastern Gulf of Mexico) is an irreplaceable national asset. No other area offers the DoD (Department of Defense) a comparable combination of air space, water space, and existing infrastructure to support military activities."*

While drilling advocates have cited a potential economic impact resulting from drilling activities in the eastern Gulf as near 56,000 jobs and \$2.6 billion in annual revenue; the resultant loss would be much greater. The January 2020 Florida Defense Factbook sites Eglin Air Force Base in NW Florida as providing an impact of over \$9 billion annually and over 78,000 jobs. That economic impact would be at risk, not to mention our national security, if drilling and related exploratory activities were allowed in the EGOMEX military training range.

Oil drilling structures and associated exploratory activities east of the MML have been identified as being incompatible with military activities, would negatively impact our military's readiness and compromise our nation's military superiority. We respectfully request your support in continuing to protect this American asset by passing Senate Bill 13, Florida Shores Protection and Fairness Act.

Respectfully,

  
SAMUEL B. BURKETT, III  
Chairman

CC: Senator Jack Reed, Senator Doug Jones, Senator James Inhofe, Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Rick Scott, Senator Martha McSally, Senator Cory Gardner, Senator John Hoeven, Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, Senator Joe Manchin III, Senator Ron Wyden, Senator Mazie Hirono, Senator Martin Heinrich, Senator Angus King





## EMERALD COAST MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL

P.O. Box 116, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549-0116

*A resolution of the Emerald Coast Military Affairs Council, opposing any oil drilling or exploration in the Joint Gulf Range Complex and sustainment of the federally protected Military Mission Line.*

**WHEREAS**, the Emerald Coast Military Affairs Council (EC MAC), a nationally recognized, independent tri-county military support organization, which is focused on maintaining a quality environment for the many military personnel and their families, along with preserving the crucial national defense capabilities the area offers for the multiple military missions. These three counties of Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton serve as home for NAS Whiting Field, Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, and Duke Field, hosting multiple joint service units and missions.

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Gulf Range Complex in the eastern Gulf of Mexico is regarded as a national security asset for test and training missions. Multi-service test and training activities are conducted in the Joint Gulf Range, the largest test and training area in the nation, offering unique features that cannot be replicated anywhere in the United States. With technology advancements, the Joint Gulf Range Complex is taking on even greater importance for our nation's security.

**WHEREAS**, since 1983, federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line (MML), established in 2000, restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration. This mandated Military Mission Line (86°-41') protects the military Joint Gulf Range Complex, allowing for real-time testing and training of advanced weapon systems for our national security.

**WHEREAS**, drilling structures and associated activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact our military's readiness, and compromise our nation's military superiority. The critical role our ranges play in providing full-spectrum readiness is critical and needs to be protected with encroachment mitigation, allowing for enhanced test and training capabilities well into the future.

**WHEREAS**, test and training ranges take on even greater significance to our national security as newer weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and longer-reaching. Current defense ranges need to be sustained and enhanced to meet the growing demands of future military readiness.


**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Emerald Coast Military Affairs Council that:

The EC MAC opposes degrading the military usefulness of the Joint Gulf Range Complex and operating areas reducing the nation's military superiority. The EC MAC maintains its official position established in 2009 and opposes any oil exploration, drilling, or related activities east of the Military Mission Line that would negatively impact the military's utilization of the Joint Gulf Range Complex for required test and training.

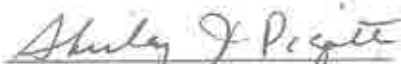
The EC MAC supports the continued enforcement of the MML beyond the existing 2022 moratorium in order to ensure our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised. The EC MAC requests Legislators extend protection of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Military Mission Line beyond 2022 by amending the current Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA), to permanently enact the moratorium.

**ADOPTED** on the 23rd day of September 2019.

**APPROVED BY:**

  
C. H. LONG  
Chairman

**WITNESSED BY:**

  
SHIRLEY J. PIGOTT  
Director of Administration



April 24, 2020

Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman, Senate Energy & Natural Resources  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski:

ERA American Real Estate wishes to express our strong desire to protect the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range from drilling and related activities. While energy independence is a worthy objective, drilling and exploratory activities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico threatens both our nation's security and, with more than 78,000 local jobs tied to the defense sector, our county's economy.

It is widely recognized that the Gulf Range is a national treasure, unable to be replicated anywhere else in the continental United States. These sentiments were confirmed when, in a May 9, 2018 letter, the Under Secretary of Defense wrote:

*"The eastern Gulf of Mexico continues to be a strategic national asset critical to the lethality of our weapon systems and the readiness of our Service members; hence it is a vital component to harnessing the power of the advanced technologies required to support our National Defense Strategy."*

Similarly, a May 2018 Pentagon Congressional report (Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico) states:

*"The EGOMEX (eastern Gulf of Mexico) is an irreplaceable national asset. No other area offers the DoD (Department of Defense) a comparable combination of air space, water space, and existing infrastructure to support military activities."*

While drilling advocates have cited a potential economic impact resulting from drilling activities in the eastern Gulf as near 56,000 jobs and \$2.6 billion in annual revenue; the resultant loss would be much greater. The January 2020 Florida Defense Factbook sites Eglin Air Force Base in NW Florida as providing an impact of over \$9 billion annually and over 78,000 jobs. That economic impact would be at risk, not to mention our national security, if drilling and related exploratory activities were allowed in the EGOMEX military training range.

Oil drilling structures and associated exploratory activities east of the MML have been identified as being incompatible with military activities, would negatively impact our military's readiness and compromise our nation's military superiority. We respectfully request your support in continuing to protect this American asset by passing Senate Bill 13, Florida Shores Protection and Fairness Act.

Respectfully,

  
Broker/President

CC:

Senator Jack Reed, Senator Doug Jones, Senator James Inhofe, Senator Steve Daines  
Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Rick Scott, Senator Cory Gardner



## FLORIDA'S Great Northwest

***A resolution of Florida's Great Northwest pledging protection of the eastern Joint Gulf Range Complex, and sustainment of the federally protected Military Mission Line.***

**WHEREAS**, Florida's Great Northwest serves a 12-county region which is home to six military installations including Eglin Air Force Base. These six installations account for tens of thousands of jobs providing direct economic benefit to countless northwest Florida businesses and citizens.

**WHEREAS**, Eglin's Joint Gulf Range Complex in the eastern Gulf of Mexico is regarded as a national security asset for multi-service test and training missions. Since 1983 federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico by providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line established in 2000, restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration. This mandated Military Mission Line (86°-41') protects the military Joint Gulf Range Complex allowing for real-time testing and training preparing to defend our national security.

**WHEREAS**, drilling structures and associated activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact our military's readiness, compromise our nation's military superiority, and threaten our economic vitality.

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Gulf Range Complex is taking on even greater importance and threats for our nation's security as a result of technology advancements. Test and training ranges take on even greater significance as newer weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and longer-reaching. Current defense ranges need to be sustained and enhanced to meet the growing demands of our future military readiness.

**NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by Florida's Great Northwest that:**

Florida's Great Northwest supports the Joint Gulf Range Complex and operating areas thereby sustaining the nation's military superiority. Florida's Great Northwest opposes any oil exploration, drilling or related activities east of the Military Mission Line that would negatively impact the military's utilization of the Joint Gulf Range Complex for required test and training.

Florida's Great Northwest supports the continued enforcement of the MML beyond the existing 2022 moratorium in order to ensure our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised. Florida's Great Northwest respectfully requests Legislators extend protection of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Military Mission Line beyond 2022 by amending the current Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA) to permanently enact the moratorium.

**ADOPTED on the 28 day of February 2017.**

**APPROVED BY:**

Rick Byars  
Chairman

**WITNESSED BY:**

Kim Wilmes  
CEO



RESOLUTION 19-01

A RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE GREATER FORT WALTON BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING AND EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.

Matt Turpin 2019 Chair of the Board Bank of England Mortgage

Vince Mayfield 2020 Chair-Elect Bit-Wizards

Bill Roberts Immediate Past Chair Barnes Insurance and Financial Services

Stephen Perkins Treasurer Warren Avari LLC

Heather Ruiz Section Chair - Professional Development Destin Commons

Mark Hamrick Section Chair - Community Center Line Associates

Jason Floyd Section Chair - Special Events JDF Architects, LLC

Steve Baxter Section Chair - Business to Business Steve Baxter Insurance

Oxana Solovieva Section Chair - Networking OxanaSol Commercial Real Estate

2019 Board of Directors:

- Barbara Britt, Bruce Marshall, C LeDon Anthon, Cliff Long, Daniel "Gus" Guseff, David Presnell, Diane Fraser, Donna Tashik, Eddie Spingie, Jaanna Rief, Joyce Sanders, Kathy Houghtens, Kim Denman, Leslie Moland, Lisa Gurry, Lisa Jo Spencer, Melissa Allingretti, Olen Holston, Patricia Payne, Paul Stingbier, Tracy Stage, Vicki Tarro, \*Life Director

WHEREAS, the United States government has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas development and exploration; and,

WHEREAS, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction, and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of an oil spills and chronic leakage; and,

WHEREAS, eventual offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of the coast; and,

WHEREAS, offshore drilling activities pose threats to treasured vacation destinations on Florida's Coasts, which are of intrinsic economic value for numerous industries, provide essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries, and act as natural buffers from storm surge and hurricanes; and,

WHEREAS, the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce recognizes that the tourism and fishing industries, which depend on a healthy and vibrant coastal environment, both serve as major economic drivers benefiting the current and future residents, property owners, and visitors to Florida; and,

WHEREAS, the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce understands the importance of the local military bases to the defense and protection of our nation; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce endeavors to be a good steward of the state and region's environment and its resources; and,

WHEREAS, exploration and development of oil and gas resources off the coast of Florida and will not effectively address the long-term energy needs of our country.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THIS 27TH DAY OF JUNE 2019 BY THE GREATER FORT WALTON BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THAT:

Offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration will put Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk; therefore the Board of Directors expresses its opposition to these activities and urges the federal government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast.

Signed: [Signature] Date: 6-24-19 Matt Turpin, 2019 Chair of the Board

Attest: [Signature] Ted Corcoran, President/CEO

2019 Sponsors





510 GREENE STREET 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR • KEY WEST, FL 33040 • 305.294.2587 • FAX 305.294.7806 • WWW.KEYWESTCHAMBER.ORG

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GREATER KEY WEST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING AND EXPLORATION, INCLUDING SEISMIC AIRGUN BLASTING.**

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has expressed interest in opening the Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Gulf of Mexico to offshore oil and gas development and exploration, including controversial methods such as seismic airgun blasting; and

**WHEREAS**, seismic airguns fire intense blasts of compressed air, one of the loudest manmade sounds in the ocean at 200-230 decibels, every 10 seconds, 24 hours a day for weeks to months at a time, causing environmental disturbances that could prove harmful or injure and kill dolphins, whales, endangered sea turtles, fish, and other marine life; and

**WHEREAS**, the full impact of seismic airgun blasting and offshore drilling are not yet fully understood by scientists, the oil and gas industry, or the federal government, and

**WHEREAS**, exploratory and commercial drilling, extraction and transportation of offshore oil and gas resources pose a significant risk of an oil spill and leakage, threatening Florida's environment, beaches, marine resources, and local economies; and

**WHEREAS**, offshore drilling activities pose threats to the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic Ocean, economically important fisheries, and every eco-system throughout the Florida Keys; and

**WHEREAS**, the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce recommends that it would be more economically and ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy such as solar and wind, that pose less risk to the coastal environment and economic health, before using uncertain methods of seismic airgun blasting for offshore oil and gas deposits.

**WHEREAS**, the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic support 70,000 jobs in the Florida Keys, and generate about \$4.4 billion in revenue through fisheries, tourism, and related industries, which could be damaged irreparably by one drilling disaster, and


**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GREATER KEY WEST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1:** The membership of the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce unanimously opposes offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, including seismic airgun blasting, which will put Florida's beaches, marine resources and local economies at risk, and urges the Federal Government not to pursue such practices off Florida's coast.

**Section 2:** That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of President and Executive Vice President of the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce.

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2018

  
President, Suzanne Moore

  
Executive V.P., Virginia A. Panico, CCE

NAVARRE AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

***A resolution of the Greater Navarre Area Chamber of Commerce opposing any oil drilling or exploration in the Joint Gulf Range Complex and sustaiment of the federally protected Military Mission Line.***

**WHEREAS**, the Greater Navarre Area Chamber of Commerce (GNACOC) serves the Navarre Florida community in Santa Rosa County, Florida and supports the community-based military and defense support organizations from Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties. These three counties serve as home for NAS Whiting Field, Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, and Duke Field hosting multiple Joint service units and missions.

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Gulf Range Complex in the eastern Gulf of Mexico is regarded as a national security asset for test and training missions. Multi-service test and training activities are conducted in the Joint Gulf Range, the largest test and training area in the nation, offering unique features that cannot be replicated anywhere in the United States. With technology advancements, the Joint Gulf Range Complex is taking on even greater importance for our nation's security.

**WHEREAS**, since 1983 federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line established in 2000, restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration. This mandated Military Mission Line (86°-41') protects the military Joint Gulf Range Complex allowing for real-time testing and training of advanced weapons systems for our national security.

**WHEREAS**, drilling structures and associated activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact our military's readiness and compromise our nation's military superiority. The critical role our ranges play in providing full-spectrum readiness is critical and needs to be protected with encroachment mitigation allowing for enhanced test and training capabilities well into the future.

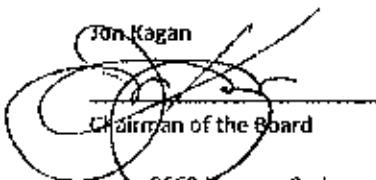
**WHEREAS**, test and training ranges take on even greater significance to our national security as newer weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and longer-reaching. Current defense ranges need to be sustained and enhanced to meet the growing demands of future military readiness.

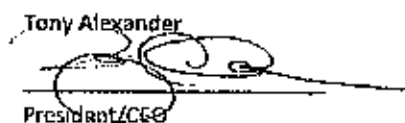
**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Greater Navarre Area Chamber of Commerce that:

The GNACOC opposes degrading the military usefulness of the Joint Gulf Range Complex and operating areas reducing the nation's military superiority. The GNACOC opposes any oil exploration, drilling or related activities east of the Military Mission Line that would negatively impact the military's utilization of the Joint Gulf Range Complex for required test and training.

The GNACOC supports the continued enforcement of the MML beyond the existing 2022 moratorium in order to ensure our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised. The GNACOC requests Legislators extend protection of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Military Mission Line beyond 2022 by amending the current Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA) to permanently enact the moratorium.

**ADOPTED** on the 13 day of March 2017.

Jon Kagan  
  
Chairman of the Board

Tony Alexander  
  
President/CEO



*Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce*

**8543 Navarre Parkway, Navarre FL 32566 – (850) 939-3267**

**[www.navarrechamber.com](http://www.navarrechamber.com)**

***A RESOLUTION OF THE NAVARRE BEACH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN OPPOSITION OF OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO AS IT RELATES TO THE PROTECTION OF THE BEACHES, TOURISM AND THE MILITARY MISSION LINE.***

WHEREAS, the Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce is a business organization representing approximately 451 members in the Navarre area; and

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

WHEREAS, the Navarre Beach area is largely dependent upon the tourism industry, making our natural resources, our beaches and the Gulf of Mexico vital to our economy; and

WHEREAS, the Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce understands the importance of the local military bases: NAS Whiting Field, Hurlburt Field, Eglin AFB, and Duke Field, to the defense and protection of our nation; and

WHEREAS, since 1983 federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico by providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line established in 2000, restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration. This mandated Military Mission Line (860-41') protects the military Joint Gulf Range Complex allowing for real-time testing and training for our national security; and

WHEREAS, drilling structures and associated activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact our military's readiness, compromise our nation's military superiority, and threaten our economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, test and training ranges take on even greater significance to our national security as newer weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and longer-reaching. Current defense ranges need to be sustained and enhanced to meet the growing demands of future military readiness.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Navarre Beach Area Chamber Board of Directors opposes offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico so that we may preserve and protect our tourism industry and the MML for military training purposes that protect the United States of America.

The Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce supports the continued enforcement of the MML beyond the existing 2022 Moratorium in order to ensure our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised. The Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce requests legislators extend protection of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Military Mission Line beyond 2022 by amending the current Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA), to permanently enact the moratorium.

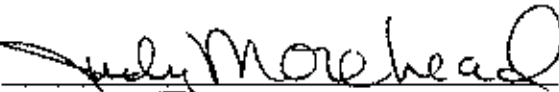
SO RESOLVED THIS 1<sup>st</sup> DAY of MARCH 2017.

BY:



Mike Sandler  
Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:



Judy Morehead  
President/CEO





Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce  
Military Affairs Council  
8543 Navarre Parkway  
Navarre, FL 32566  
850-939-3267



***A RESOLUTION OF THE NAVARRE BEACH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (NBACOC) MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN OPPOSITION OF OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO AS IT RELATES TO THE PROTECTION OF THE BEACHES, TOURISM AND THE MILITARY MISSION LINE.***

**WHEREAS**, the NBACOC Military Affairs Committee is a military support organization which is focused on maintaining a quality environment for the many active duty and retired military personnel and their families living and working in the Navarre Beach area. These installations include NAS Whiting Field, Hurlburt Field, Eglin AFB, and Duke Field.

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

**WHEREAS**, the Navarre Beach area is largely dependent upon the tourism industry, making our natural resources, our beaches and the Gulf of Mexico vital to our economy; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1983 federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico by providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line established in 2000, restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration. This mandated Military Mission Line (86°-41') protects the military Joint Gulf Range Complex allowing for real-time testing and training for our national security; and

**WHEREAS**, drilling structures and associated activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact our military's readiness, compromise our nation's military superiority, and threaten our economic vitality; and

**WHEREAS**, test and training ranges take on even greater significance to our national security as newer weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and longer-reaching. Current defense ranges need to be sustained and enhanced to meet the growing demands of future military readiness.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NBACOC Military Affairs Committee opposes offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico so that we may preserve and protect our tourism industry and the MML for military training purposes that protect the United States of America.

The NBACOC Military Affairs Committee also supports the continued enforcement of the MML beyond the existing 2022 Moratorium in order to ensure our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised. The Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce requests legislators extend protection of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Military Mission Line beyond 2022 by amending the current Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA), to permanently enact the moratorium.

**SO RESOLVED THIS 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY of MARCH 2017,**

**BY:**

  
Michele Tucker  
Chairperson

**ATTEST:**

  
Judy Moorhead  
President and CEO



*A resolution of the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce opposing any oil drilling or exploration in the Joint Gulf Range Complex and sustaining the federally protected Military Mission Line.*

**WHEREAS**, the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce serves to represent the interests of businesses in our area protecting and expanding the economic viability of our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Gulf Range Complex in the eastern Gulf of Mexico is regarded as a national security asset for test and training missions. Multi-service test and training activities are conducted in the Joint Gulf Range, the largest test and training area in the nation, offering unique features that cannot be replicated anywhere in the United States. With technology advancements, the Joint Gulf Range Complex is taking on even greater importance for our nation's security.

**WHEREAS**, since 1983 federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line established in 2000, restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration. This mandated Military Mission Line (86°- 41') protects the military Joint Gulf Range Complex allowing for real-time testing and training of advanced weapons systems for our national security.

**WHEREAS**, drilling structures and associated activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact our military's readiness and compromise our nation's military superiority. The critical role our ranges play in providing full-spectrum readiness is critical and needs to be protected from encroachment, allowing for enhanced test and training capabilities well into the future.

**WHEREAS**, test and training ranges take on even greater significance to our national security as newer weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and longer-reaching. Current defense ranges need to be sustained and enhanced to meet the growing demands of future military readiness.

**WHEREAS**, the 2015 Florida Defense Handbook reported the annual economic impact of the military presence in Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties exceeded \$10,007,000,000; accounting for more than 85,000 jobs in the three counties. Okaloosa tops \$8.8 Billion with over 72,000 alone.

**NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce that:**

The Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce opposes degrading the military usefulness of the Joint Gulf Range Complex and operating areas reducing the nation's military superiority. The Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce maintains its official position established in 2009 and opposes any oil exploration, drilling or related activities east of the Military Mission Line that would negatively impact the military's utilization of the Joint Gulf Range Complex for required test and training.

The Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce supports the continued enforcement of the MML beyond the existing 2022 moratorium in order to ensure our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised. The Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce requests Legislators extend protection of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Military Mission Line beyond 2022 by amending the current Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA) to permanently enact the moratorium.

**ADOPTED on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2017.**

**APPROVED BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jenni Brunson  
Chairman of the Board

**WITNESSED BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Wood  
Past Chairman of the Board





*A resolution of the Military Affairs Committee of the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce opposing any oil drilling or exploration in the Joint Gulf Range Complex and sustaining the federally protected Military Mission Line.*

**WHEREAS**, the Military Affairs Committee (MAC) of the Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce represents the business community and serves the area that includes Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, and Duke Field.

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Gulf Range Complex in the eastern Gulf of Mexico is regarded as a national security asset for test and training missions. Multi-service test and training activities are conducted in the Joint Gulf Range, the largest test and training area in the nation, offering unique features that cannot be replicated anywhere in the United States. With technology advancements, the Joint Gulf Range Complex is taking on even greater importance for our nation's security.

**WHEREAS**, since 1983 federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line established in 2000, restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration. This mandated Military Mission Line (86°-41') protects the military Joint Gulf Range Complex allowing for real-time testing and training of advanced weapons systems for our national security.

**WHEREAS**, drilling structures and associated activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact our military's readiness and compromise our nation's military superiority. The critical role our ranges play in providing full-spectrum readiness is critical and needs to be protected from encroachment, allowing for enhanced test and training capabilities well into the future.

**WHEREAS**, test and training ranges take on even greater significance to our national security as newer weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and longer-reaching. Current defense ranges need to be sustained and enhanced to meet the growing demands of future military readiness.

**NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Military Affairs Committee that:**

The Military Affairs Committee opposes degrading the military usefulness of the Joint Gulf Range Complex and operating areas reducing the nation's military superiority. The MAC maintains its official position established in 2009 and opposes any oil exploration, drilling or related activities east of the Military Mission Line that would negatively impact the military's utilization of the Joint Gulf Range Complex for required test and training.

The MAC supports the continued enforcement of the MML beyond the existing 2022 moratorium in order to ensure our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised. The MAC requests Legislators extend protection of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Military Mission Line beyond 2022 by amending the current Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA) to permanently enact the moratorium.

**ADOPTED on the 31st day of January 2017.**

**APPROVED BY:**

  
Van Fuller  
Military Affairs Committee Chairman

**WITNESSED BY:**

  
Pricia Brunson  
President & CEO, Niceville Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce



**SANTA ROSA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**Resolution**

A resolution of the Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce opposing any oil drilling or exploration in the Joint Gulf Range and sustainment of the federally protected Military Mission Line.

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Gulf Range in the eastern Gulf of Mexico is regarded as a national security asset for military test and training missions. This is the largest test and training area in the nation, offering capabilities that cannot be replicated anywhere in the United States.

**WHEREAS**, federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line ( MML : 86 degrees - 41 minutes west) running south from Fort Walton Beach , FL to Key West, FL restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration.

**WHEREAS**, drilling structures and associated activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities and could negatively impact vital test and training missions.

**WHEREAS**, test and training ranges take on even greater significance to our national security as newer weapons systems and aircraft enter the inventory.

**NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that:**

The Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce opposes degrading the usefulness of the Joint Gulf Range and operating areas. The Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce opposes any oil exploration, drilling or related activities east of the MML.

The Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce supports the continued enforcement of the MML beyond the existing 2022 moratorium.

ADOPTED on the second day of February 2017.

**APPROVED BY:**

*Steve Rhodes*

Steve Rhodes, Chairman

SANTA ROSA COUNTY MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE .

A resolution of the Santa Rosa County Military Affairs Committee opposing any oil drilling or exploration in the Joint Gulf Range and sustainment of the federally protected Military Mission Line.

WHEREAS, the Joint Gulf Range in the eastern Gulf of Mexico is regarded as a national security asset for military test and training missions. This is the largest test and training area in the nation, offering capabilities that cannot be replicated anywhere in the United States.

WHEREAS, federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line ( MML : 86 degrees - 41 minutes west) running south from Fort Walton Beach , FL to Key West, FL restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration.

WHEREAS, drilling structures and associated activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities and could negatively impact vital test and training missions.

WHEREAS, test and training ranges take on even greater significance to our national security as newer weapons systems and aircraft enter the inventory.

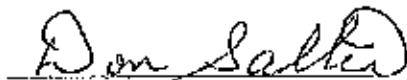
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that:

The MAC opposes degrading the usefulness of the Joint Gulf Range and operating areas. The MAC opposes any oil exploration, drilling or related activities east of the MML.

The MAC supports the continued enforcement of the MML beyond the existing 2022 moratorium.

ADOPTED on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February 2017.

APPROVED BY:



Don Salter , Chairman



April 29, 2020

Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman, Senate Energy & Natural Resources  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski,

The Technology Coast Manufacturing and Engineering Network, TeCMEN, is the premier business advocate and industry cluster for STEM industries sectors in the Northwest Florida region. TeCMEN is comprised of approximately 55 STEM-based enterprises providing comprehensive engineering, manufacturing and technical solutions in commercial, manufacturing, defense and aviation market sectors locally, regionally, and in the competitive global marketplace.

TeCMEN strongly supports protecting the Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range from drilling and related activities. Drilling and exploratory activities in the eastern Gulf of Mexico threatens our national security and the vitality of the defense contractors providing critical services to our military installations. The eastern Gulf is a military range essential to our military's success and critically important to delivering the required capabilities to our men & women deployed overseas. The Eastern Gulf Test & Training Range (EGTTR) connects test & training capabilities from NW Florida to Key West and is utilized by Eglin AFB, Tyndall AFB, other military branches, installations, government agencies, and private companies.

The EGTTR has long been recognized as a key location to train our warfighters, and to test the newest weapons, munitions, and armaments for all military services and many of our allies. In a May 09, 2018 letter, the Under Secretary of Defense wrote "The eastern Gulf of Mexico continues to be a strategic national asset critical to the lethality of our weapon systems and the readiness of our Service members; hence it is a vital component to harnessing the power of the advanced technologies required to support our National Defense Strategy." In addition, a May 2018 Pentagon Congressional report (Preserving Military Readiness in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico) states, "The EGOMEX (eastern Gulf of Mexico) is an irreplaceable national asset. No other area offers the DoD (Department of Defense) a comparable combination of air space, water space, and existing infrastructure to support military activities."

While drilling advocates have cited a potential economic impact resulting from drilling activities in the eastern Gulf as near 56,000 jobs and \$2.6 billion in annual revenue; the resultant loss would be much greater. The January 2020 Florida Defense Factbook sites Eglin Air Force Base in NW Florida as providing an impact of over \$9 billion annually and over 78,000 jobs. The state of Florida offers \$95 billion and 914,787 jobs! That economic impact would be at risk, not to mention our national security, if drilling and related exploratory activities were allowed in the EGOMEX military training range.

Oil drilling structures and associated exploratory activities east of the MML have been identified as being incompatible with military activities, would negatively impact our military's readiness and compromise our nation's military superiority. We respectfully request your support in continuing to protect this American asset by passing Senate Bill 13, Florida Shores Protection and Fairness Act.

Respectfully,

David Haines, TeCMEN Chairman  
President, Precision Measurement Inc.

CC: Senator Jack Reed, Senator Doug Jones, Senator James Inhofe  
Senator Marco Rubio, Senator Rick Scott



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Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459  
Phone: (850) 267-0683  
Fax: (850) 267-0603

1140 Circle Drive  
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435  
Phone: (850) 892-3191  
[www.waltonareachamber.com](http://www.waltonareachamber.com)

***A resolution of the WALTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE pledging protection of the eastern Joint Gulf Range Complex, and sustainment of the federally protected Military Mission Line.***

**WHEREAS**, the WALTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is the community's LEADING VOICE OF BUSINESS representing over 800 businesses, venues and resources.

**WHEREAS**, the 2015 Florida Defense Handbook reported the annual economic impact of the military presence in Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay and Escambia Counties exceeded \$20,000,000,000; accounting for more than 150,000 jobs in the three counties.

**WHEREAS**, Eglin's Joint Gulf Range Complex in the eastern Gulf of Mexico is regarded as a national security asset for multi-service test and training missions. Since 1983 federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico by providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line established in 2000, restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration. This mandated Military Mission Line (86°-41') protects the military Joint Gulf Range Complex allowing for real-time testing and training preparing to defend our national security.

**WHEREAS**, drilling structures and associated activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact our military's readiness, compromise our nation's military superiority, and threaten our economic vitality.

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Gulf Range Complex is taking on even greater importance and threats for our nation's security as a result of technology advancements. Test and training ranges take on even greater significance as newer weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and longer-reaching. Current defense ranges need to be sustained and enhanced to meet the growing demands of our future military readiness.

**NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the WALTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE that:**

The WALTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE supports the Joint Gulf Range Complex and operating areas thereby sustaining the nation's military superiority. The WALTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE opposes any oil exploration, drilling or related activities east of the Military Mission Line that would negatively impact the military's utilization of the Joint Gulf Range Complex for required test and training.

The WALTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE supports the continued enforcement of the MML beyond the existing 2022 moratorium in order to ensure our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised. The WALTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE requests Legislators extend protection of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Military Mission Line beyond 2022 by amending the current Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA) to permanently enact the moratorium.

**ADOPTED on the 30th day of March 2017.**

**APPROVED BY:**

Name: Megan R Harrison

Title: President and CEO

**WITNESSED BY:**

Name Nathan Sparks, CEcD

Title Executive Director  
Economic Development Council Okaloosa



76 North Sixth Street  
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433  
Phone (850) 892-4859  
Fax (850) 892-8454

A resolution of the Walton County Economic Development Alliance pledging protection of the eastern Joint Gulf Range Complex, and sustainment of the federally protected Military Mission Line.

**WHEREAS**, The Walton County Economic Development Alliance is the community's chief entity for promoting economic development.

**WHEREAS**, the 2015 Florida Defense Handbook reported the annual economic impact of the military presence in Walton, Santa Rosa, and Okaloosa counties exceeded \$10 billion; accounting for more than 85,000 jobs in the three counties.

**WHEREAS**, Eglin's Joint Gulf Range Complex in the eastern Gulf of Mexico is regarded as a national security asset for multi-service test and training missions. Since 1983 federal policies have protected the Eastern Gulf of Mexico by providing a buffer zone, now defined by the Military Mission Line (MML) established in 2000, restricting oil and natural gas drilling and exploration. This mandated Military Mission Line (86 deg. 41 min.) protects the military Joint Gulf Range Complex allowing for real-time testing and training preparing to defend our national security.

**WHEREAS**, drilling structures and associated activities east of the MML would be incompatible with military activities, negatively impact our military's readiness, compromise our nation's military superiority, and threaten our economic vitality.

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Gulf Range Complex is taking on even greater importance and threats for our nation's security as a result of technology advancements. Test and training ranges take on even greater significance as newer weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and longer-reaching. Current defense ranges need to be sustained and enhanced to meet the growing demands of our future military readiness.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Walton County Economic Development Alliance that:

The Walton County Economic Development Alliance supports the Joint Gulf Range Complex and operating areas thereby sustaining the nation's military superiority. The Walton County Economic Development Alliance opposes any oil exploration, drilling or related activities east of the Military Mission Line that would negatively impact the military's utilization of the Joint Gulf Range Complex for required test and training.

The Walton County Economic Development Alliance supports the continued enforcement of the MML beyond the 2022 moratorium in order to ensure our military readiness and training capabilities are not compromised. The Walton County Economic Development Alliance requests Legislators extend protection of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Military Mission Line beyond 2022 by amending Public Law 109-432, entitled the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to permanently enact the moratorium.

ADOPTED on the 2nd day of February 2017.

APPROVED BY:

Cecilia Jones, Chair

Name / Title

WITNESSED BY:

W. W. [Signature], Exec. Direct

Name / Title