

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 29

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 22, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator PAUL A. SARLO

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Gopal, Brown, Greenstein and Gordon

SYNOPSIS

Opposes expansion of oil and natural gas drilling on Outer Continental Shelf.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/27/2018)

1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** opposing the expansion of oil and natural
2 gas drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s coastline is the State’s most famous natural
5 resource, and attracts millions of visitors from across the country
6 and world every year; and
7 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey’s tourism industry generates over \$44 billion
8 annually, directly supports more than 321,000 jobs, and indirectly
9 supports nearly 10 percent of the State’s workforce, and much of
10 this industry is centered along New Jersey’s coastline; and
11 **WHEREAS**, Revenue from New Jersey tourism generates \$4.9 billion
12 in State and local taxes and \$5.6 billion in federal taxes annually;
13 and
14 **WHEREAS**, The waters off New Jersey’s coast are home to a diverse
15 array of unique wildlife, such as several species of endangered
16 whales and rare migratory birds; and
17 **WHEREAS**, The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) in the
18 United States Department of the Interior approved a plan in January
19 2017 which did not include any oil and natural gas leases in the
20 Atlantic Ocean through 2022; and
21 **WHEREAS**, On April 28, 2017, President Trump signed Executive
22 Order No. 13795 entitled “Implementing an America-First Offshore
23 Energy Strategy”; and
24 **WHEREAS**, The executive order requires BOEM to consider revising
25 the leasing schedule to include annual lease sales to the maximum
26 extent permitted by law in the Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic
27 regions, among others; and
28 **WHEREAS**, The executive order also requires the Secretary of the
29 Interior to reconsider rules concerning an operator’s financial
30 capacity to pay for leasing requirements, and safety regulations
31 passed in the aftermath of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill of
32 2010; and
33 **WHEREAS**, The executive order also seeks to loosen regulatory
34 requirements on seismic airgun testing, which BOEM previously
35 estimated could injure up to 11,748 bottlenose dolphins, 6,147
36 short-beaked dolphins, 5,848 Atlantic spotted dolphins, 4,631 short-
37 finned pilot whales, and 3,993 striped dolphins per year in the
38 Atlantic Ocean; and
39 **WHEREAS**, On May 1, 2017, the United States Department of the
40 Interior announced Secretarial Order No. 3350 which further
41 implemented the President’s executive order; and
42 **WHEREAS**, On December 29, 2017, the Bureau of Safety and
43 Environmental Enforcement in the United States Department of the
44 Interior formally proposed rolling back the safety regulations put in
45 place after the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill designed to prevent
46 such disasters from occurring in the future; and

1 **WHEREAS**, On January 4, 2018, the United States Department of the
2 Interior announced a Draft Proposed Program for Oil and Gas
3 Drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf; and
4 **WHEREAS**, This program proposes to make over 90 percent of the
5 total Outer Continental Shelf area available for oil and natural gas
6 drilling, while presently 94 percent of Outer Continental Shelf land
7 is off limits to such activity; and
8 **WHEREAS**, The program’s proposed drilling area includes areas off of
9 the coast of New Jersey and the coasts of neighboring states, where
10 an oil spill could have significant impacts on New Jersey’s fishing
11 and tourism industries; and
12 **WHEREAS**, These executive actions represent a particularly serious
13 threat because they not only call for an expanded drilling area, but
14 also roll back safety regulations designed to prevent future spills;
15 and
16 **WHEREAS**, Opening the Atlantic Coast for offshore oil and natural
17 gas drilling would put beaches, fisheries, marine life, and
18 businesses all along the coast of New Jersey at risk; and
19 **WHEREAS**, Senator Menendez, Senator Booker, Governor Christie,
20 and Governor Murphy have all expressed opposition to the plan to
21 permit drilling off the Atlantic Coast, each recognizing the grave
22 threat such industrialization poses to the economy and the ecology
23 of the State; and
24 **WHEREAS**, There is broad bipartisan consensus among New Jersey’s
25 State and federal representatives that oil and natural gas drilling in
26 the Atlantic Ocean would harm commercial and recreational
27 fisheries and wildlife, while threatening the economy of New
28 Jersey’s coastal municipalities; and
29 **WHEREAS**, The governors of 15 of the 22 states impacted by the plan
30 have expressed opposition to expanding Outer Continental Shelf
31 drilling, including both Democratic and Republican governors; and
32 **WHEREAS**, Given the overwhelming scientific consensus that fossil
33 fuel use is causing potentially irreversible global climate change, it
34 is a moral imperative that the United States invest in energy
35 infrastructure that does not produce greenhouse gases; and
36 **WHEREAS**, As a coastal state, New Jersey is particularly sensitive to
37 many of the effects of global climate change, such as rising sea
38 levels and more extreme storms, and the United States government
39 has an obligation to protect the citizens of this State; and
40 **WHEREAS**, Particularly at a time when the rest of the world is
41 shifting focus toward creating new green energy development,
42 the Trump Administration should be expanding these new
43 technologies instead of exposing New Jerseyans to the hazards
44 associated with offshore oil and natural gas drilling; now,
45 therefore,
46
47 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

