

VIRGINIA BEACH

Resort Advisory Commission
2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 302
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451
(757) 385-4800
FAX (757) 422-3666

May 15, 2015

The Honorable William D. Sessoms, Jr., Mayor
Members of City Council
Municipal Center – Building 1
2401 Courthouse Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

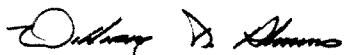
Re: 2017-2022 BOEM Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program for the Mid-Atlantic Coast
including the Commonwealth of Virginia

Dear Mayor Sessoms and Council Members:

The Resort Advisory Commission at its May 6, 2015 meeting voted to oppose offshore oil exploration as an energy resource option off the coast of Virginia. The Commission based the decision on recently received presentations from Bob Matthias, Office of the City Manager who discussed the potential economic impacts and Eileen Levandoski of the Sierra Club along with Caroline Wood of OCEANA who discussed the potential environmental impacts. This was in addition to a briefing by Delegate Frank Wagner in 2008 regarding offshore oil exploration technology and resources. The Commission voted favorably for wind energy exploration in the recent past.

Following opposition votes by the Virginia Beach Hotel Association and Virginia Beach Restaurant Association, the Commission voted to oppose offshore oil exploration due to the vulnerability of our coast and beaches to catastrophes that may adversely affect our tourism industry for decades. We trust the City Council will re-evaluate their position on offshore energy exploration in the very near future.

Sincerely,



William D. Almond, FASLA
Chair

c: Jim Spore, City Manager, Virginia Beach, VA
Doug Smith, Deputy City Manager, Virginia Beach, VA
Joseph DaBiero, President Virginia Beach Hotel Association
William Gambrell, President Virginia Beach Restaurant Association
Barry Frankenfield, SGA
Mike Eason, SGA Resort Management