

1 **..Title**

2 **Opposing Oil and Gas Development Off Maryland’s Shores** - For the purpose of expressing
3 the City of Annapolis’s opposition to offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration activities,
4 including seismic air gun blasting.

5 **..Body**

6 **CITY COUNCIL OF THE**

7 *City of Annapolis*

8
9 **Resolution 5-18**

10
11 **Introduced by: Alderman Savidge**

12
13 **A RESOLUTION** concerning

14
15 **Opposing Oil and Gas Development Off Maryland’s Shores**

16
17 **FOR** the purpose of expressing the City of Annapolis’s opposition to offshore oil and gas
18 drilling and exploration activities, including seismic air gun blasting.

19
20 **WHEREAS**, on August 16, 2017, Governor Hogan formerly notified the Bureau of Ocean
21 Energy Management (BOEM) of Maryland’s opposition to opening up the Mid-
22 Atlantic outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease area for oil and gas exploration and
23 development activities as part of the 2019-2024, 5-year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing
24 Program; and

25
26 **WHEREAS**, offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration places coastal communities at
27 economic and ecological risk from oil spills and the pollution brought by routine
28 drilling operations and onshore industrialization, threatening the livelihoods of
29 commercial and recreational fisherman and small businesses that rely on a clean
30 and healthy ocean and beaches; and,

31
32 **WHEREAS**, offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines
33 or refineries, which would harm the character of Maryland’s coastline,
34 perpetuates our ties to dirty carbon pollution, and exacerbates wetlands loss and
35 storm surge and sea level rise impacts; and,

36
37 **WHEREAS**, offshore drilling activities pose threats to the Chesapeake Bay, a major historical,
38 cultural, economic and ecological treasure in this region; and

39
40 **WHEREAS**, seismic air-guns fire intense blasts of compressed air, which create one of the
41 loudest manmade sounds in the ocean at 200-230 decibels, occurring as frequently
42 as every ten seconds, for days to weeks at a time; and

43
44 **WHEREAS**, seismic air gun blasting to explore for oil and gas deposits has been proven to
45 disrupt and displace marine life and threatens our coastal wetlands in Maryland,
46 which are of intrinsic ecological value for numerous migratory bird species, serve

1 as essential nursery habitats for recreational and commercially important fisheries,
2 and act as natural buffers from storm surges and hurricanes; and
3

4 **WHEREAS**, the City of Annapolis endeavors to be a good steward of the State's environment
5 and its resources; and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, tourism that is related to the appreciation of our natural coastal and historical
8 environment is a major economic force in the City of Annapolis; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the City of Annapolis's maritime heritage contributes to a high quality of life for
11 our residents to enjoy, enables business recruitment, and attracts new residents;
12 and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the City of Annapolis recommends that it would be more economically and
15 ecologically responsible to pursue non-polluting sources of renewable energy
16 through solar, wind, and biomass energy production projects that pose less risk to
17 our coastal environment and economic health before using uncertain methods
18 such as seismic blasting for offshore oil and gas exploration.
19

20 **NOW, THEREFORE,**

21
22 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that the Council opposes
23 offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration activities, including seismic air gun blasting, in the
24 mid-Atlantic Ocean adjacent to Maryland's coastline.
25

26 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that a copy
27 of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, Maryland's 3rd Congressional District House and
28 Senate Delegations to the 115th Congress, the President of the Maryland Senate, and the
29 Maryland House Speaker.
30

31 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ANNAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL** that this
32 resolution shall take effect from the date of its passage.
33
34

35 **EXPLANATION**

36 Underlining indicates matter added to existing law.

37 [~~Strikethrough~~] indicates matter stricken from existing law.
38