
EDC's and Chamber Approve Resolution of Opposition to Deepwater Offshore Drilling Moratorium

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Resolution of Opposition to the Deepwater Offshore Drilling Moratorium and Administrative Law Revisions Inhibiting Deepwater Offshore Drilling Permit Issuance

WHEREAS, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill is an unprecedented, sad, and unfortunate disaster that warrants the review and development of policy revisions of the United States Government and Department of the Interior; and WHEREAS, the United States Government (U.S.), Department of the Interior, enacted a Deepwater (500 ft. or More) Offshore Drilling moratorium for a six month period in response to the Deepwater Horizon disaster that was lifted by U.S. District Judge Martin Feldman's ruling on June 22, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the ruling was made on the basis that because one rig failed that all rigs and operators should be subject to a "blanket, generic, indeed punitive moratorium; and

WHEREAS, there are over 30 Deepwater Offshore Rigs in the Gulf of Mexico that directly and indirectly employ 150,000 rig and drilling support workers and billions of dollars in capital investment in the Gulf Region; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of the Interior has vowed to make repeated efforts to appeal the U.S. District Court's decision to lift the moratorium and use whatever means necessary it has to halt Deepwater Offshore Drilling in response to the moratorium being lifted; and

WHEREAS, U.S. administrative law revisions have been approved and enacted as of June 18, 2010 that will curtail the issuance of new and renewable permits for Deepwater Offshore Drilling; and

WHEREAS, it is important to review and improve methods, policies and laws related to safety for Deepwater Offshore Drilling as a result of the Deepwater Horizon disaster; and

WHEREAS, the Katy Area/West Houston/Fort Bend economy is highly dependent on Deepwater Offshore rig engineering, development, support and maintenance with thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of capital investment established in the region that rely on Deepwater Offshore Rig deployment in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, these actions taken by the U.S. Department of Interior could severely and negatively impact the economy of the West Houston/Katy Area region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Katy Area Economic Development Council, Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council are hereby opposed to any Deepwater Offshore Drilling actions by the U.S. Department of Interior or other related U.S. Government agencies to: (a) reinstate or reintroduce an existing or new Deepwater Offshore Drilling moratorium; (b) appeal the decision by the U.S. District Court to lift the moratorium; or (c) enforce the Administrative Law revisions that inhibit new or renewed Deepwater Offshore Drilling permits in the Gulf of Mexico.

This resolution was approved on or by July 22, 2010 by the Boards of the Katy Area Economic Development Council, Katy Area Chamber of Commerce and Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council.