



**RESOLUTION
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL TASK FORCE TO
GLOBALLY ADDRESS COASTAL ISSUES**

WHEREAS, the Town of Sunset Beach is a coastal community in North Carolina blessed with the natural beauty of clean beaches, salt and fresh water marshes, and sounds and tributaries, and with its largest industry being related to tourism. These beaches, marshes, sounds and tributaries are unique and irreplaceable habitats and breeding grounds for many endangered species of wildlife. Further, they provide a significant percentage of the edible seafood in our country, which is managed at the federal and state levels as to the size and quantity of catches permitted; and,

WHEREAS, like Sunset Beach, the great majority of coastal communities in the United States were established because of, and economically remain dependent on, the bounty and beauty of their natural resources. The ocean, marshes, sounds and tributaries continue to be a major attraction and integral part of other industries, including tourism, birding, sport fishing, water sport recreation, and others, and the driving force of the economies of these coastal communities. However, our coastal towns are constantly at the mercy of the forces of nature, including severe weather (hurricanes, water spouts, El Niño, etc.), global warming, ocean acidification, algae bloom, fish kills, and erosion, to name a few. Any of the aforementioned events could have a catastrophic impact on local property values, tourism and other industries which depend on the natural resources of the area; and,

WHEREAS, local governments allocate budgetary resources to preserve and protect the water and beach front they rely on for prosperity, but there is no unified state or national commitment to protect these resources. This results in an inherent risk from activities that our neighbors permit or prohibit because the tidal action is not contained by a state's borders. For example, if a state allows discharge of storm water or other pollutants into the ocean, all neighboring states are adversely impacted by that activity; and,

WHEREAS, the Federal government is looking to lease a small concentrated geographic area off the east coast for oil exploration (using seismic testing) and possible future drilling along with the development of wind farms. This is our same government that protects and preserves huge land areas as National Parks and land- based wildlife refuges in sparsely populated areas of our great nation. We believe that the oceans should likewise be regarded as a natural treasure to be preserved and protected. If drilling for oil is offensive and dangerous to the environment and wildlife in Alaska and the western states, why is this and other invasive projects safe off our coastlines where containment in the event of a disaster is near impossible? If transporting oil via a pipeline across a known geographic footprint to refineries is offensive and dangerous to the environment and wildlife in the Midwest, why is it acceptable to permit this in a highly populated yet unpredictable coastal area of our country? This would seem to raise the risk of a high cost disaster and recovery for both our coastal communities and the country far above the potential returns from such projects; and,

WHEREAS, we believe that our federal government should adopt a more conservative and protective attitude when considering coastal resources. While we cannot control the actions of the rest of the world, we do ask that our own governments undertake a thorough and unbiased evaluation of all the invasive activities being proposed for any specific geographical area whenever natural resources, wildlife and local communities are at potential risk. The current studies and arguments for allowing exploration with unproven technologies and unknown impacts by special interest groups are unacceptable. Further we believe that the federal government should take the lead in working with the coastal states to create a uniform set of standards so that we are all addressing the preservation, safety, stability and security of this irreplaceable resource the same way.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Town of Sunset Beach strongly encourages the establishment of a federal task force to create standards and help address the competing projects and potential harm that we currently face. The primary objective would be the protection of the ocean, including the preservation, stability and safety of this natural resource and the goal of assigning it National Treasure status. We urge that this be done as soon as possible - the potential risks to our coast are enormous, immediate, and irreversible.

Adopted this the _____ day of _____, _____

TOWN OF SUNSET BEACH

Ron Watts, Mayor

Attest:

Lisa H. Anglin, Town Clerk