

2018 -- S 2360

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP'S DECISION TO
ALLOW OFFSHORE DRILLING IN MOST OF AMERICA'S COASTAL WATERS

Introduced By: Senators Miller, Sosnowski, Felag, Conley, and Goodwin

Date Introduced: February 15, 2018

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

1 WHEREAS, On January 4th, 2018, the Trump administration announced that it would
2 allow offshore oil drilling in most United States coastal waters, an announcement vigorously
3 opposed by all environmental groups and numerous governors and members of Congress,
4 including a number of elected Republican officials; and

5 WHEREAS, President Trump's decision lifts the ban on offshore oil drilling that was
6 imposed by President Barack Obama. It opens up approximately one billion acres of territory to
7 oil drilling and exploration and would implement 47 drilling leases, the largest number of such
8 leases offered in the history of the United States. In addition, the Trump administration has
9 weakened offshore oil exploration and safety regulations, particularly safety equipment
10 regulations, all of which poses a severe threat to the environmental well-being of our nation and
11 the safety of countless people; and

12 WHEREAS, President Trump's decision also poses a significant threat to our nation's,
13 and Rhode Island's, thriving tourism and fisheries industries. A 2014 industry report conducted by
14 IHS Consulting reported that in 2013 alone, the total impact of travel and tourism in Rhode Island
15 was \$2.8 billion dollars, representing 5.3 percent of the state's Gross Product and accounting for
16 approximately 45,000 jobs - nearly ten percent of the state's total employment. Overall, tourism is
17 the fourth largest economic sector in Rhode Island. Also, in a report prepared by the Cornell
18 Cooperative Extension Marine Program, the fisheries industry in Rhode Island for 2010
19 employed 4,968 individuals; and

1 WHEREAS, Nationally, tourism represented a \$10.9 billion industry in the United States
2 as of 2013, and the commercial fishing and seafood industry accounted for \$153 billion in sales
3 for the year 2014. The Governors of Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, North
4 Carolina, California, Oregon, Washington and the Republican Governors of Maryland and South
5 Carolina are opposing President Trump's plan to open up approximately one billion acres of
6 territory to offshore drilling and oil exploration. The threat to the economies of our coastal states
7 and to the safety of those who work in the fisheries industry are too grave to allow these plans to
8 proceed. It is time for everyone, including all Rhode Islanders, to lend their voices in opposition
9 to the President's offshore drilling policies and in support of our country's vital natural resources
10 and for those whose livelihoods depend upon the vigorous protection of our coastal waters; now,
11 therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
13 hereby expresses opposition to President Trump's decision to allow offshore drilling in most of
14 America's coastal waters; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to President Donald J. Trump, Governor Gina M.
17 Raimondo and the Rhode Island Congressional delegation.

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