

## Opposing Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling and Exploration Activities, including Seismic Airgun Blasting

1 **WHEREAS** in Washington State hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars  
2 of the state's gross domestic product depend on clean, oil-free water and beaches and  
3 abundant fish and wildlife;  
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5 **WHEREAS** the vast majority of Washington State's ocean wealth stems from fishing,  
6 aquaculture, tourism and recreation which benefits from a healthy ocean and coast;  
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8 **WHEREAS** offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration places coastal communities at  
9 economic and ecological risk from oil spills and the pollution brought by routine  
10 drilling operations and onshore industrialization, threatening the livelihoods of  
11 commercial and recreational fisherman and small businesses that rely on a clean and  
12 healthy ocean and beaches;  
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14 **WHEREAS** offshore drilling may require significant onshore infrastructure, such as  
15 pipelines or refineries, which would harm the character of Washington State's coastline  
16 and could exacerbate wetlands loss and storm surge and sea level rise impacts;  
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18 **WHEREAS** the harmful impacts from offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration  
19 anywhere along the Pacific coastline could extend far beyond immediately surrounding  
20 areas and severely impact communities that rely on the robust economy of the marine  
21 industry;  
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23 **WHEREAS** offshore drilling and exploration perpetuates our ties to dirty carbon  
24 pollution and contributes to climate change and the resulting sea level rise and extreme  
25 weather;  
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27 **WHEREAS** the current Administration has expressed interest in opening the Pacific  
28 Ocean to offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration, which includes the use of seismic  
29 airguns which fire intense blasts of compressed air that rank just behind military  
30 explosives as the loudest source of noise in the ocean, every 10-12 seconds, 24 hours a  
31 day, for months on end;  
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33 **WHEREAS** seismic airgun blasting to explore for oil and gas deposits has been proven  
34 to disrupt and displace marine life, such as whales and orcas which rely on sound to

find food and mate, and can impair the health of many fish and shellfish species,  
including those of commercial importance like rockfish, crab, and oysters; and

**WHEREAS** the Democrats of Pacific County recognizes that our communities,  
businesses, and industries depend on a healthy coastal environment for the benefit of  
current and future residents, property owners, and visitors;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats call for offshore  
oil exploration and extraction to cease and desist and that offshore waterways not be  
sold or leased to private entities.

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Submitted by the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats.

The Platform Committee recommended that this resolution be passed at their June 15,  
2018 meeting.

The 2018 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 16,  
2018.