

**A RESOLUTION OF THE RIVERS COALITION OF THE COUNTY OF MARTIN,
FLORIDA, OPPOSING THE EXPANSION OF OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING OFF THE
COASTS OF MARTIN AND SAINT LUCIE COUNTIES**

WHEREAS, the Rivers Coalition is a 55 member organization of business, environmental and civic groups that represent more than 300,000 citizens from Florida and beyond,

WHEREAS, the Rivers Coalition formed in 1998 as a result of huge damaging freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee that polluted the St. Lucie Estuary and crippled the local economy,

WHEREAS, the mission of the Rivers Coalition is, **"To fight for a safe, healthy and ecologically balanced St. Lucie River Estuary and Indian River Lagoon, natural resources that are vital to the economy and quality of life of Martin County and the Treasure Coast.**

WHEREAS, despite technological advances in oil rig drilling technology, there is no positive assurance that catastrophic damage to our coastline, beaches, plant and fish life can be avoided – whether from drilling mud containing heavy metals such as mercury, regular production, or accidental oil spills – and whether during normal operating conditions or during storm events; and

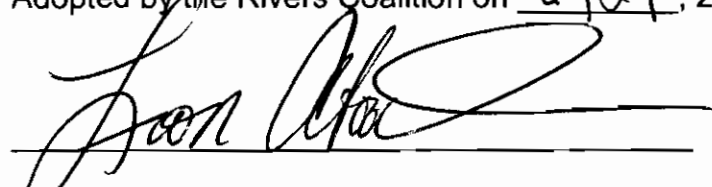
WHEREAS, environmental specialists contend the major risk from drilling platforms is the wastewater they routinely discharge which contains drilling fluids, and heavy metals including mercury; and

WHEREAS, the risks associated with offshore drilling platform and the potential for catastrophic events similar to the Gulf of Mexico incident would have detrimental effects on the St. Lucie estuary and the Indian River Lagoon.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

Rivers Coalition hereby opposes legislative attempts to allow offshore drilling expansion off the coasts of Martin and Saint Lucie Counties

Adopted by the Rivers Coalition on 6/24, 2010.



Attested by Leon Abood
Chairman, Rivers Coalition