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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS,

On April 20, 2010, the oil drilling rig Deepwater Horizon exploded, creating a breach that would spawn the worst environmental incident in U.S. history, ultimately spilling more than 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

WHEREAS,

Said oil is contaminating, and is being perceived to be contaminating, Florida's Panhandle beaches and nearby offshore waters.

WHEREAS,

Said oil might soon be contaminating, or be perceived to be contaminating, other Florida beaches and offshore waters.

WHEREAS,

Said contamination, and the perception of said contamination, is both directly and indirectly harming Florida's economy, especially its vital tourism and fishing industries.

WHEREAS,

On July 8, 2010, Governor Charlie Crist invoked his powers under article III, section 3(c)(I) of the Florida Constitution and section 11.011, Florida Statutes, to call a Special Session of the Legislature of the State of Florida for July 20-23, 2010, for the sole and exclusive purposes of (1) considering the passage of a joint resolution to revise the Florida Constitution to prohibit the exploration for, the drilling for, the extraction of and the production of oil beneath all Florida waters located between the mean high water line along the coastline of Florida and the seaward limit of Florida's boundaries; and (2) placing that proposed revision on the November 2, 2010 ballot.

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WHEREAS,

Article X, Section 11 of the Florida Constitution already prevents Florida's Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund from leasing sovereign submerged lands for oil and gas development if it is determined to be contrary to the public interest, thus mitigating the need for said Special Session of the Florida Legislature.

WHEREAS,

Section 377.24, Florida Statutes, already prohibits the Florida Department of Environmental Protection from issuing a permit to drill a well in search of oil or gas on state-owned submerged lands within the territorial waters of the state, thus further mitigating the need for said Special Session of the Florida Legislature.

WHEREAS,

Said Special Session of the Florida Legislature is estimated to cost Florida taxpayers approximately \$50,000 per day.

WHEREAS,

Data regarding the economic impacts, and potential economic impacts, of the Deepwater Horizon incident are still preliminary in nature.

WHEREAS,

It is imperative that a thorough and detailed analysis of those impacts be conducted as a prelude to the development of optimal solutions for mitigating such impacts.

WHEREAS,

On July 15, 2010, the President of the Florida Senate and the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives pledged to collaboratively conduct such an analysis and, upon its completion, call a Special Session of the Florida Legislature to adopt appropriate, targeted legislation that will help Florida's economy recover from the Deepwater Horizon incident and mitigate future harm.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

The Florida Council of 100 calls on the Florida Legislature to adjourn sine die on July 20, 2010, as soon as possible after acknowledging receipt of Governor Charlie Crist's Special Session proclamation.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

The Florida Council of 100 commends the Florida Legislature for its measured, analytical approach to dealing with the effects of the Deepwater Horizon incident and pledges its continued support for legislative efforts to improve Florida's economy and create a high quality of life for all Floridians.



Susan N. Story, Chair

Steven T. Halverson, Vice Chair

**Passed by the Executive Committee
of The Florida Council of 100
July 16, 2010**