

PROTECT FLORIDA'S BEACHES

From Oil Drilling in Coastal Waters



Thunder Horse in the Gulf of Mexico © MMS

OIL AND GAS DRILLING PROPOSALS PUT FLORIDA'S BEACHES AT RISK

- A shadowy group of investors is hiring top lobbyists and giving political donations to legislators to reverse Florida's ban on drilling near our coast.
- Oil drilling is not safe – there are no guarantees that spills will not happen near our beaches.

The EPA reports "there is as great as a 47% chance that the slick would reach Florida's coastal waters before dissipating," when considering the event of a spill.

OIL WELLS THREATEN THE STATE'S \$562 BILLION COASTAL ECONOMY

- Oil spills in Texas and other Gulf states have seriously harmed beaches and wildlife and polluted coastal waters.
- Oil pipelines and onshore refineries would also damage Florida's fragile coast.
- 950,000 jobs and thousands of business depend on tourism, especially beach visitors.



COASTAL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS ARE OUTRAGED

- Florida's coastal communities depend on clean water and clean beaches. People who live in and visit beach communities know drilling is risky.
- The most valuable property and most visited state parks are on the beaches. These assets are placed at risk by drilling rigs and pipelines.

INDEPENDENCE FROM FOREIGN OIL?

- The proposal would enable foreign companies and governments to buy rights to Florida's coastal resources. Recent news reports show that China is buying up mining and drilling rights around the world.
- Gas prices will still be linked to international prices.
- Recoverable oil wouldn't even hit markets for ten years and gas prices in Florida would not be lowered.



Florida's beaches are the source of Florida's wealth.

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People don't come to Florida for oil.



They come for the beaches and the water.

Former Gov. Jeb Bush: Opposing oil drilling "is clearly the environmentally and economically rational choice for Florida."

OIL SPILLS ARE EXPENSIVE

- Costs for spill clean-ups range from \$26,000 - \$140,000 per ton.
- Little spills cost more to clean up (per ton) than big spills

OIL DRILLING IS DANGEROUS TO PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

- Drilling releases mercury and other toxic chemicals into surrounding waters.
- In other states people complain about sickening fumes released from drilling platforms.



FALSE ECONOMIC PROMISES

- The lobbyists and legislators (while refusing to say who is bankrolling the operation) claim without proof that money from drilling will help Florida's government.
- Although leases will go for as little as \$1 million apiece, drillers will own rights worth billions. Florida would be paid less than 15% of the value of any oil produced.
- No drilling revenue will be appropriated in the state's annual budget.



WHAT OIL DRILLING DOES PROMISE

- Lost tourism revenue.
- Decreased overall economic output.
- Decreased coastal property values.
- Reduced commercial fishing earnings.
- Decreased recreational retail sales.
- Long-term pollution of environmental resources.
- Degradation of critical wildlife habitat.
- Increased health risk factors.

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