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MEMORIALIZING RESOLUTION REGARDING THE NATIONAL OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL & GAS LEASING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the United States Government, by its Department of the Interior, has established a new five-year National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (the "Program"); and

WHEREAS, such Program would potentially allow for virtually unfettered exploration of waters off the coast of Long Island for Oil and Gas natural resources; and

WHEREAS, such unfettered exploration poses inherent risks to the ecology of the waters and, should those risks come to fruition, resulting displacement of economies for the Long Island workforce including, but not limited to the fisheries and tourism industries; and

WHEREAS, the waters off the coast of the State of Florida have previously been granted an exemption from such Program for similar reasons; now, therefore, it is

RESOLVED that the Executive Board of the Suffolk County Village Officials Association hereby memorializes its support of New York State's application for an exemption from the Program for the waters adjacent to the coastline of the State of New York, and places particular emphasis on the risks to the waters adjacent to the coastline of Long Island.