



**The Defense Support Initiative**  
of Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton Counties

*A resolution of the tri-county Defense Support Initiative opposing any exploration or oil drilling in the Joint Gulf Range Complex and east of the existing federally protected Military Mission Line.*

**WHEREAS**, the Defense Support Initiative (DSI) sponsored by the Economic Development Council serving Okaloosa County, Florida represents the community-based military and defense support organizations from Santa Rosa County, Okaloosa County and Walton County. These three counties serve as home for NAS Whiting Field, Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, Duke Field and, beginning in 2011, the US Army 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne). Okaloosa County also supports Coast Guard Station Destin and the future Joint Strike Fighter Initial Training Center.

**WHEREAS**, the Joint Gulf Range Complex in the eastern Gulf of Mexico is regarded as a national security asset for test and training missions. Northwest Florida generates 46% of the State's \$59.5 B military economic impact with the military representing 73% of Okaloosa's economic activity. Multi-service test and training activities are conducted in the Joint Gulf Range Complex which offers unique features that cannot be replicated anywhere in the United States.

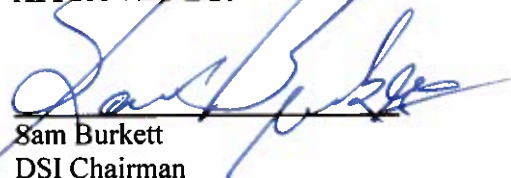
**WHEREAS**, 1983 federal policies currently protect a Military Mission Line extending from Hurlburt Field south into the Gulf of Mexico with oil and natural gas drilling restricted to the west of the line. This mandated Military Mission Line, 86°41', protects the Joint Gulf Range Complex and allows for real-time testing and training by our military men and women.

**NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Defense Support Initiative that:**

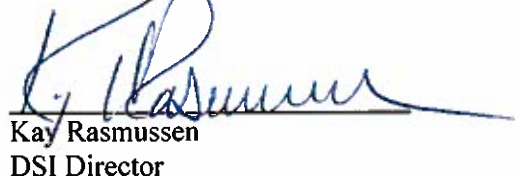
The DSI strongly recommends that the State Legislature maintain the established oil and gas drilling exclusion zone in strategically located State waters to ensure the protection of Florida and Federal recognized military ranges as well as access to those ranges; to continue the protection of the Joint Gulf Range Complex by prohibiting oil drilling operations in State waters East of the MML (86°41'); establish a no drill zone in State waters East of MML (86°41') to longitude 84°22' as far south as necessary; and further, preserve the utility of the military ranges as the highest priority when the state or federal government considers lease rights to explore for and/or develop oil and gas beneath sovereign submerged lands, even to the point of giving the military veto power when the exploration and development activities pose a risk to the military mission.

**ADOPTED on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010.**

**APPROVED BY:**

  
Sam Burkett  
DSI Chairman

**WITNESSED BY:**

  
Kay Rasmussen  
DSI Director

Attachment.