



Economic Development Council  
of Okaloosa County, Florida

## RESOLUTION

***A resolution of the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, Florida in opposition of any activity in the Gulf of Mexico, State or Federal waters, that would negatively impact local military missions, tourism or coastal environmental health.***

**WHEREAS**, the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County, serves as Okaloosa County's primary economic development and business advocacy organization committed to the continual growth and diversification of its economy. The EDC's primary objectives are 1) existing industry diversification, retention and expansion, 2) development of a technically skilled and available workforce, and 3) recruitment of targeted industries all supporting the continual development of quality of place.

**WHEREAS**, the Economic Development Council represents all of Okaloosa County and its nine municipalities which are host communities for Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field and Duke Field collectively housed on the largest military installation in the world and known as the Department of Defense's national security treasure.

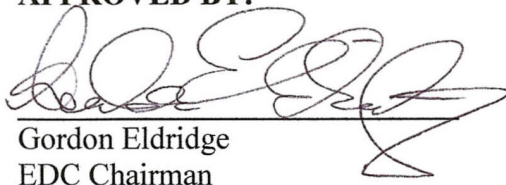
**WHEREAS**, the Gulf of Mexico and the Eglin Gulf Range Complex are considered national test and training treasures, and tourism and environmental assets. As weapon systems and aircraft become more sophisticated and long-reaching, this test and training range takes on even greater importance in U.S. national security; it cannot be replicated anywhere in the United States. Likewise, the health of the Florida coast is essential to the tourism industry, and the availability of sand renourishment from the continental shelf.

**WHEREAS**, the EDC understands and supports the drive for U.S. energy independence and supports a broad, multi-faceted approach that utilizes the most current technologies and conservation measures without endangering our national security or local economic drivers.


**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the EDC opposes any federal or state proposals that would encroach upon the Gulf should they have any negative impact on test and training capabilities, tourism or coastal environmental health. The EDC is respectful of past federal policies that have supported a Military Mission Line running from Hurlburt Field south into the Gulf, with oil and natural gas drilling restricted to the west of this line.

**ADOPTED on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2009, by the Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County Board of Directors.**

**APPROVED BY:**

  
Gordon Eldridge  
EDC Chairman

**WITNESSED BY:**

  
Larry Sassano  
EDC President