

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE DISMANTLING OF SAFEGUARDS THAT  
PROTECT MARINE MAMMALS AND OTHER SEALIFE FROM HIGH FREQUENCY  
BLASTS RESULTING FROM OIL EXPLORATION**

**WHEREAS**, by targeting the repeal of core provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, that regulate seismic blasts used to locate oil and gas deposits, but damage the hearing of whales and dolphins so profoundly, they lose the ability to navigate and reproduce, the Trump Administration is advocating the overhaul of seismic survey rules to fast-track the opening of coastal waters to dozens of new drilling leases, and has downsized protected marine areas to allow more naval operations and oil exploration, and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for balance between environmental protection and energy production, the prioritization of energy production over conservation is a direct threat to the local Orange County economy, that heavily relies on fishing, tourism and recreation; and exposes local communities to greater potential risk form environmental disasters from offshore drilling and gas production, and

**WHEREAS**, between 2011 and 2016, under the current law, 264 seismic testing permits were issued, the new proposed bills (SEA Act and the SECURE Act), require automatic approval if the permit review is not completed within 120 days, and the requirement that the permit be issued for a specific geographic region has been deleted, thus, expanding permitting to most anywhere off any coast,

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Democratic Party of Orange County joins Congressman Alan Lowenthal, ranking member of the House Sub-Committee on Energy and Mineral Resources, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Oceana, Ocean Conservation Research, Greenpeace USA, Surfrider Foundation, and the Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Association to oppose changes to the Marine Mammal Protection Act that has protected our marine mammals, their environment and our coastal communities for over forty six years.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Democratic Party of Orange County opposes any effort to insert these bills into must-pass legislation and/or the military reauthorization bill.

Recipients: Congressman Alan Lowenthal

**Adopted by the Democratic Party of Orange County  
At its April 23, 2018 Central Committee Meeting**