

Friends and Fellow Floridians:

The Florida Wildlife Federation (FWF), and many other citizens and groups, want the public to have the chance to vote on near-shore oil drilling and to ban the possibility of this destructive practice. Our state relies on clean beaches for our economic and environmental well-being. Oil drilling in our state marine waters, which extend approximately three miles into the Atlantic Ocean and 10 miles into the Gulf of Mexico, is simply too great a risk to take. Unfortunately, some of our elected leaders disagree, and as recently as the 2009 Legislative Session, voted to end the present statutory drilling ban.

Floridians asked the Legislature, at the Special Session held in July 2010, to place the issue before the voters. Unfortunately, the Legislature did not agree to allow Floridians to vote to amend the State Constitution in the November 2010 general election.

In light of the inaction of the Legislature, and to forestall any future attempt to allow near-shore oil drilling, we have created Save our Seas, Beaches and Shores, Inc. (SOSBS) to coordinate a **citizens' petition drive to place the ban on the November 2012 ballot**. This will not be easy. We will need approximately 700,000 verified petitions. As of today, we have received approval for the Constitutional Amendment Petition Form from the Department of State, Division of Elections. This Petition Form is attached, as is a one page information sheet.

We will have a planning meeting of interested parties, including yourselves, as soon as we can arrange it, but we wanted to get you the Petition Form as soon as we received approval. We will also set up a website for information. **This effort will take all of us!**

Please note – 1) Forms must be filled out completely and sent in to the address on the form.

2) While a signatory may insert either his or her Voter Registration Number or Date of Birth, having the Voter Registration Number will speed the processing by the Supervisor of Elections offices.

3) SOSBS is a non-profit organization, but donations thereto are NOT tax deductible. That said, any financial support would be welcome.

**Thank you very much – this is our chance to save our coasts, our economy and our environmental heritage for ourselves and future Floridians.**

Manley K. Fuller, Chair  
Preston T. Robertson, President  
Tasha O. Buford, Treasurer  
Tom. W. Reese, Secretary

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