

MINNESOTA CONSERVATION FEDERATION

ANNUAL MEETING

September 13, 2015

Resolution #1

St. Cloud, Minnesota

Force Permanent Capping of all Gas & Oil wells in the Gulf

WHEREAS; On April 20, 2010 a BP oil spill dumped up to 172,000,000 gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, killing 13 workers, destroying thousands of miles of shore land and ocean habitat, and killing millions of fish and game, and

WHEREAS, five years ago the Obama Administration promised to move swiftly to permanently plug unused oil and gas wells in the Gulf, and

WHEREAS, federal data indicates that the neglect of long idled wells has intensified since 2010, despite the federal push after the BP accident, and

WHEREAS, the number of wells that have stayed “temporarily sealed” for more than a year have increased from 2,855 to 3,576, and

WHEREAS, wells sealed temporarily for more than a year make up 86% of all temporarily sealed shafts--up from 78% in 2010, and

WHEREAS, the number of wells equipped with temporary barriers from more than five years has risen from 1,631 to 1,895 or a 16% increase, and

WHEREAS, it is understood that “temporary capping” of oil and gas wells is intended to allow for the reentry and future production of oil and gas when market conditions warrant, and

WHEREAS; there are loopholes in the federal tax law, called the “Idle Iron” program allows companies to delay permanent closure indefinitely, and

WHEREAS; these wells are not monitored adequately by the industry or by the state or federal government, and

WHEREAS; the pressure for oil and gas from the Gulf is increasing with the overall number of wells increased by 5% since 2010 from 50,784 to 53,481 while the number of temporarily abandoned wells has risen by 11% from 3,669 to 4,081, and

WHEREAS, current conditions suggest that another disaster is waiting to happen;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Conservation Federation meeting at its annual meeting on September 13, 2015 in St. Cloud, Minnesota strongly support federal laws and regulations that require oil companies operating in the Gulf of Mexico be held to a higher standard by the federal government and be required to permanently cap all unused oil and gas wells.

Sponsored by Keith Blomstrom