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OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER NADEL

Approved as to Form and Legality


City Attorney

A RESOLUTION (1) CALLING FOR UNITED STATES' SUPPORT FOR THIRD PARTY DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS IN THE NIGER DELTA, NIGERIA AND (2) SUPPORTING REINTRODUCTION IN THE 111TH CONGRESS OF THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY DISCLOSURE ACT, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THAT ALL COMPANIES REGISTERED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION REPORT THEIR PAYMENTS TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS FOR THE EXTRACTION OF OIL, GAS AND MINERALS ON A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY BASIS

WHEREAS, the Niger Delta has experienced 50 years of exploitation from the oil industry and the Nigerian government and is the fifth largest exporter of oil to the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the Niger Delta has deteriorated into a major environmental disaster and the population suffers poverty and human rights abuses; and

WHEREAS, the Nigerian government and military began a military offensive in May 2009 in the Niger Delta that resulted in the death, injury and internal displacement of its own civilian population; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Hillary Clinton, during her mid-August 2009 visit to Nigeria stated support for the government's approach to security in the country, pledged to explore U.S. military support for Nigeria, and referred to the President Yar'Adua's offer of amnesty for militants in the Delta as a "comprehensive political framework;" and

WHEREAS, many Niger Delta civil society groups, armed militant groups and independent experts have either rejected the government's offer of amnesty or do not believe it will be an effective solution to bring peace to the Delta because it does not address the root causes of poverty and underdevelopment and resource control in the region; and

WHEREAS, Chevron Corporation is one of the largest oil companies working in Nigeria, contributing to the 9 percent of oil consumed in the U.S., representing 44 percent of Nigeria's oil exports; and

WHEREAS, Oakland is located close to Chevron Corporation's headquarters in San Ramon, California and to the Corporation's refinery in Richmond, giving Oakland residents a direct stake in how our oil is extracted; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County is home to the 10th largest population of Nigerians living in the U.S; and

WHEREAS, Bay Area consumers are renowned as strong advocates for Fair Trade and want to know that the products they use do not exploit people or the environment; and

WHEREAS, Nigeria is confronting a moment of serious crisis that can be turned into a moment of opportunity, and the U.S. can help provide the influence to ensure that constructive solution to the root causes of the crisis in the Niger Delta is undertaken; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. can help foster positive change in alignment with its values as a country that promotes democracy, freedom of the press, and peace through a process of diplomacy and independently monitored negotiations; negotiations that could remap how oil revenues are used to benefit Delta communities and ensure that Delta residents have a genuine say in their own governance leading to a true comprehensive political framework for peace; and

WHEREAS, Congress Member Barney Frank (D-MA) and Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) introduced H.R. 6066 in the 110th Congress titled the Extractive Industry Transparency Disclosure Act (EITD Act) that would have required all companies registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission to report their payments to foreign governments for the extraction of oil, gas and minerals on a country-by-country basis, allowing for transparency of oil companies' payments to governments; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Oakland City Council does hereby request that the Obama administration and the California Congressional delegation support independently monitored third party diplomatic talks in the Niger Delta with all stakeholders to bring about a peaceful solution; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oakland City Council encourages the Nigerian government to begin investing in a meaningful way in the development of the Niger Delta and rebuild the communities destroyed in the current crisis; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oakland City Council does hereby support reintroduction of the EITD Act in the 111th Congress by Senator Schumer and Congress Member Frank and encourages the California Congressional delegation to also support the reintroduction and passage of the EITD Act.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20_____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, REID, and PRESIDENT BRUNNER
NOES -
ABSENT -
ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____
LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California