

By Senators Klein, Jones and Campbell

30-477B-06

Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Florida delegation to the United States House of Representatives, urging unified resistance to proposals for the revision of measures protecting the coastline of Florida against oil and gas drilling.

WHEREAS, Florida's Congressional Delegation has long stood united against proposals for oil and gas drilling off the state's coasts, and

WHEREAS, across party lines, Florida's Congressional representatives have long recognized that protection of Florida's fragile coastal ecology is vital to the state's economy as well as its ecology, and have understood that, in Florida, the economy and the ecology are indeed inseparable, and

WHEREAS, temporary energy shortages in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have encouraged oil- and gas-drilling interests to attempt to break down defenses that have thus far protected Florida's coastal resources from many of the pollution and contamination risks of our time, and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior has estimated that hydrocarbon reserves off western Florida and the Panhandle would meet only about 200 days of the nation's gasoline and heating oil needs projected for this winter, and

WHEREAS, in practical terms, these reserves would not become available for at least 2 years, and a possible maximum of 10 years, after drilling begins, and thus do not constitute a solution to the immediate shortfall or a justification for

1 proposals to change current laws limiting coastal drilling,
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have demonstrated
4 beyond doubt the extraordinary risks of placing additional
5 drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico, risks that are both
6 economic in the short term and ecological in the long term,
7 and

8 WHEREAS, scientists have alerted us to the presently
9 unpredictable results of contaminating marine organisms and
10 ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico, which are a vital part of
11 the food chain throughout the Southeastern United States and
12 the entire country, and

13 WHEREAS, our society stands at a point at which our
14 almost exclusive reliance on oil drilling has led to the
15 problems we face today, and our energy policy should be based
16 on the use of viable 21st-century energy sources, NOW,
17 THEREFORE,

18
19 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

20
21 That the Florida delegation to the United States House
22 of Representatives is urged to stand strong and united against
23 any attempt to allow oil or gas drilling along Florida's
24 coastline.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
26 dispatched to the Speaker of the United States House of
27 Representatives and to each member of the Florida delegation
28 to the United States House of Representatives.

29
30
31