

HM 509

2006

## 1 House Memorial

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

6  
7 WHEREAS, Florida's Congressional Delegation has long stood  
8 united against proposals for oil and gas drilling off the  
9 state's coasts, and

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

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

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

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

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29 proposals to change current laws limiting coastal drilling, and

30 WHEREAS, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have demonstrated  
31 beyond doubt the extraordinary risks of placing additional  
32 drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico, risks that are both  
33 economic in the short term and ecological in the long term, and

34 WHEREAS, scientists have alerted us to the presently  
35 unpredictable results of contaminating marine organisms and  
36 ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico, which are a vital part of the  
37 food chain throughout the Southeastern United States and the  
38 entire country, and

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

43

44 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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46 That the Florida delegation to the United States House of  
47 Representatives is urged to stand strong and united against any  
48 attempt to allow oil or gas drilling along Florida's coastline.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
50 dispatched to the Speaker of the United States House of  
51 Representatives and to each member of the Florida delegation to  
52 the United States House of Representatives.