

HM 221

2008

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging
3 unified resistance to proposals for the revision of
4 measures protecting the coastline of Florida against oil
5 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 representatives in
11 Congress have long recognized that the protection of Florida's
12 fragile coastal ecology is vital to the state's economy as well
13 as its ecology, and have understood that, in Florida, the
14 economy and the ecology are indeed inseparable, and

15 WHEREAS, one major oil spill off the coast of Florida,
16 which is always a possibility regardless of advances in safety
17 and engineering, would jeopardize Florida's multi-billion-dollar
18 tourism industry, and

19 WHEREAS, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita demonstrated beyond
20 doubt the extraordinary risks of placing additional drilling
21 operations in the Gulf of Mexico - a short-term economic risk
22 and a long-term ecological risk, and

23 WHEREAS, routine offshore drilling operations discharge
24 thousands of pounds of toxic chemicals into surrounding waters,
25 smother bottom-dwelling organisms and sea grasses with cuttings
26 and debris, and generate large amounts of air pollution, and

27 WHEREAS, scientists have alerted the public to the
28 presently unpredictable results of contaminating marine

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29 | organisms and ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico, which are a
30 | vital part of the food chain throughout the Southeastern United
31 | States and the entire country, and

32 | WHEREAS, the Energy Information Service has determined that
33 | the United States owns only 3 percent of the world's proven oil
34 | reserves, and therefore expanded offshore drilling would not
35 | reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and

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

41 |

42 | Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

43 |

44 | That the Congress of the United States is urged to stand
45 | strong and united against any attempt to allow oil or gas
46 | drilling along Florida's coastline.

47 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
48 | dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
49 | President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
50 | United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
51 | the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.