

By Senator Bennett

21-00363-08

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## Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, 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 representatives in Congress have long recognized that the 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, one major oil spill off the coast of Florida, which is always a possibility regardless of advances in safety and engineering, would jeopardize Florida's multi-billion-dollar tourism industry, and

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

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

WHEREAS, scientists have alerted the public to the presently unpredictable results of contaminating marine organisms and ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico, which are a vital part of the

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30 | food chain throughout the Southeastern United States and the  
31 | 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 of 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 the  
51 | Florida delegation to the United States Congress.