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2009

House Memorial

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2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging
3 Congress to support the expiration and removal of
4 moratoria prohibiting exploration and production of
5 domestic supplies of oil and natural gas in federal Outer
6 Continental Shelf waters surrounding Florida and to
7 include Florida in revenue sharing resulting from the
8 production of oil and natural gas in federal waters
9 surrounding Florida.

10
11 WHEREAS, Floridians highly value the state's unique
12 environment, including our white, sandy beaches, our coastal
13 habitats supporting species unique to our state, and our
14 abundant access to the waters surrounding Florida that are home
15 to coral reefs, fish, and mammals, and

16 WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that responsible energy
17 production can coexist with conservation of our state's
18 sensitive, ecologically balanced areas as has been demonstrated
19 with oil production in pristine areas of the state, such as the
20 Florida Everglades, for more than 60 years, and

21 WHEREAS, across party lines, Florida's representatives in
22 Congress have long recognized the dependence of the state's
23 tourist and agricultural economies on access to reliable and
24 affordable petroleum products derived from oil and natural gas,
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Florida consumes approximately 28.5 million
27 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel per day and 10.4 billion
28 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel annually, and

29 WHEREAS, Florida is expected to increase total utility
 30 generation capacity derived from natural gas from 30 percent in
 31 2005 to over 44 percent in 2014 to meet increasing electricity
 32 demand in the state, and

33 WHEREAS, Florida's industries, including fertilizer,
 34 agrochemical, plastic, manufacturing, bakeries, juice and food
 35 processing, pulp and paper, road construction, metals,
 36 restaurants, hotels, grocery stores, and research institutions,
 37 among many others, are heavily dependent on access to reliable
 38 and affordable natural gas, and

39 WHEREAS, the United States has recently experienced record
 40 high prices for gasoline, diesel fuel, and natural gas, and

41 WHEREAS, global demand for oil has risen from 77 million
 42 barrels per day in 2001 to 85 million barrels per day in 2007,
 43 and

44 WHEREAS, global demand for oil and natural gas is projected
 45 to increase 45 percent by 2030, according to the Energy
 46 Information Agency, and

47 WHEREAS, the United States produces just 41 percent of the
 48 oil its citizens and residents consume and consumes 25 percent
 49 of the oil produced globally, and

50 WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior
 51 conservatively estimates that 118 billion barrels of oil, enough
 52 to power 65 million cars for 60 years, is recoverable from
 53 domestic sources, and

54 WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior
 55 conservatively estimates that 651 trillion cubic feet of natural

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56 gas, enough to power 60 million homes for 160 years, is
57 recoverable from domestic sources, and

58 WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior
59 conservatively estimates that 233 trillion cubic feet of natural
60 gas is recoverable from federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico,
61 and

62 WHEREAS, development and production plans filed with the
63 United States Department of the Interior in 1997 confirm
64 potential resources for the daily production of up to 450
65 million cubic feet of natural gas in a small portion of the
66 Eastern Gulf of Mexico off the Florida Panhandle known as Destin
67 Dome, and

68 WHEREAS, technological advances and environmental
69 partnerships have enabled the energy industry to achieve new
70 levels of safety and ecological protection while producing oil
71 and natural gas in federal waters, and

72 WHEREAS, domestically, the Outer Continental Shelf produces
73 1 million barrels of oil per day, and, according to the National
74 Academy of Sciences, since 1980 less than 0.001 percent has
75 slipped into the sea, which is less than the amount of naturally
76 occurring oceanic seepage, and

77 WHEREAS, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which battered the
78 Gulf of Mexico and nearly 3,000 oil platforms directly in their
79 paths with 200-mile-per-hour winds and 100-foot seas in 2005,
80 caused no loss of life among offshore energy industry personnel
81 or significant spills from any offshore oil wells on the Outer
82 Continental Shelf, according to the United States Department of
83 the Interior, and

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84 WHEREAS, Hurricanes Ike and Gustav followed very similar
85 paths to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and caused far less damage,
86 attesting to the progress made by the industry in implementing
87 enhanced oil platform and infrastructure standards, and

88 WHEREAS, Florida continues to have a successful history of
89 oil and natural gas production in environmentally sensitive
90 areas such as the Everglades dating back to 1943, and

91 WHEREAS, Florida oil and natural gas fields have produced
92 more than 548 million barrels of oil and more than 630 million
93 cubic feet of natural gas since 1943, and

94 WHEREAS, in exchange for a 125-mile drilling buffer in the
95 Gulf of Mexico, Florida declined to participate in the 2006 Gulf
96 of Mexico Energy Security Act that provides 37.5 percent of all
97 federal oil and natural gas revenues, including lease sales and
98 production royalties, to Gulf Coast states, and

99 WHEREAS, the initial Eastern Gulf of Mexico Sale 224 in the
100 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act generated in excess of
101 \$64 million, 37.5 percent of which went directly to Texas,
102 Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, and

103 WHEREAS, revenue sharing prescribed in the 2006 Gulf of
104 Mexico Energy Security Act will extend to all new production in
105 the Gulf of Mexico in 2017, and, as a result, Louisiana
106 estimates it will generate more than \$650 million per year, and

107 WHEREAS, without a change in policy, Florida will continue
108 to be excluded from sharing additional revenues and royalties
109 related to lease sales and production royalties associated with
110 the development of oil and natural gas resources in the Gulf of
111 Mexico, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

114

115 That the Congress of the United States is urged to continue
116 its support of the expiration of the Congressional moratoria and
117 the removal of the Presidential withdrawal prohibiting oil and
118 natural gas leasing on certain lands of the Outer Continental
119 Shelf, including federal waters surrounding Florida, and to
120 support modification of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act
121 of 2006 for the following purposes:

122 (1) To remove the moratorium on oil and gas leasing in
123 federal Outer Continental Shelf waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

124 (2) To add Florida to the term "Gulf producing State" so
125 that Florida will be included in sharing qualified Outer
126 Continental Shelf revenues resulting from the production of oil
127 and natural gas.

128 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
129 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
130 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
131 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
132 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.