

By Senator Oelrich

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
urging Congress to support the expiration and removal  
of moratoria prohibiting exploration and production of  
domestic supplies of oil and natural gas in federal  
waters surrounding Florida and to include Florida in  
revenue sharing resulting from the production of oil  
and natural gas in federal waters surrounding Florida.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Florida's fertilizer industry is heavily dependent  
on access to reliable and affordable natural gas, and

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

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

WHEREAS, global demand for oil and natural gas is projected

14-00399-09

2009504\_\_

30 to increase 45 percent by 2030, according to the Energy  
31 Information Agency, and

32 WHEREAS, the United States produces just 41 percent of the  
33 oil its citizens and residents consume and consumes 25 percent  
34 of the oil produced globally, and

35 WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior  
36 conservatively estimates that 118 billion barrels of oil, enough  
37 to power 65 million cars for 60 years, is recoverable from  
38 domestic sources, and

39 WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior  
40 conservatively estimates that 651 trillion cubic feet of natural  
41 gas, enough to power 60 million homes for 160 years, is  
42 recoverable from domestic sources, and

43 WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior  
44 conservatively estimates that 233 trillion cubic feet of natural  
45 gas is recoverable from federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico,  
46 and

47 WHEREAS, development and production plans filed with the  
48 United States Department of the Interior in 1997 confirm  
49 potential resources for the daily production of up to 450  
50 million cubic feet of natural gas in a small portion of the  
51 Eastern Gulf of Mexico off the Florida Panhandle known as Destin  
52 Dome, and

53 WHEREAS, technological advances and environmental  
54 partnerships have enabled the energy industry to achieve new  
55 levels of safety and ecological protection while producing oil  
56 and natural gas in federal waters, and

57 WHEREAS, domestically, the Outer Continental Shelf produces  
58 1 million barrels of oil per day, and, according to the National

14-00399-09

2009504\_\_

59 Academy of Sciences, since 1980 less than 0.001 percent has  
60 slipped into the sea, which is less than the amount of naturally  
61 occurring oceanic seepage, and

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

69 WHEREAS, Hurricanes Ike and Gustav followed very similar  
70 paths to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and caused far less damage,  
71 attesting to the progress made by the industry in implementing  
72 enhanced oil platform and infrastructure standards, and

73 WHEREAS, Florida continues to have a successful history of  
74 oil and natural production in environmentally sensitive areas  
75 such as the Everglades dating back to 1943, and

76 WHEREAS, Florida oil and natural gas fields have produced  
77 more than 548 million barrels of oil and more than 630 million  
78 cubic feet of natural gas since 1943, and

79 WHEREAS, in exchange for a 125-mile drilling buffer in the  
80 Gulf of Mexico, Florida declined to participate in the 2006 Gulf  
81 of Mexico Energy Security Act that provides 37.5 percent of all  
82 federal oil and natural gas revenues, including lease sales and  
83 production royalties, to Gulf Coast States, and

84 WHEREAS, the initial Eastern Gulf of Mexico Sale 224 in the  
85 2006 Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act generated in excess of  
86 \$64 million, 37.5 percent of which went directly to Texas,  
87 Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, and

14-00399-09

2009504\_\_

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

92 WHEREAS, without a change in policy, Florida will continue  
93 to be excluded from sharing additional revenues and royalties  
94 related to lease sales and production royalties associated with  
95 the development of oil and natural gas resources in the Gulf of  
96 Mexico, NOW, THEREFORE,

97

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

99

100 That the Congress of the United States is urged to support  
101 the expiration and removal of moratoria prohibiting exploration  
102 and production of domestic supplies of oil and natural gas in  
103 federal waters surrounding Florida and to include Florida in  
104 revenue sharing resulting from the production of oil and natural  
105 gas in federal waters surrounding Florida.

106 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
107 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
108 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
109 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
110 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.