

By Senator Gaetz

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
urging Congress to dedicate penalties collected from
parties responsible for the Deepwater Horizon oil
disaster to repairing the environmental and economic
damage caused by the disaster.

WHEREAS, on the night of April 20, 2010, there was an
explosion at the Deepwater Horizon oil rig which caused at least
170 million gallons of oil to spill into the Gulf of Mexico over
the course of several months and wash up onto the coastlines of
the five Gulf states, and

WHEREAS, this man-made disaster spoiled portions of
Florida's coastline and waterways and devastated its fishing and
tourism industries, and

WHEREAS, this man-made disaster has directly resulted in
the loss of jobs and business for Floridians, and

WHEREAS, a preliminary study by the University of Central
Florida predicted job losses of 195,000 and spending losses of
\$10.9 billion if Florida's 23 counties along the Gulf Coast lose
50 percent of their tourism and leisure jobs and spending, and

WHEREAS, that preliminary study also predicted job losses
of 39,000 and spending losses of \$2 billion if those same
counties lose 10 percent of their tourism and leisure jobs and
spending, and

WHEREAS, despite clean-up efforts, oil remains buried in
the sand on the Gulf states' coastlines and in the waters
offshore, and

WHEREAS, the amount of oil remaining in the Gulf waters is

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30 still unknown and some researchers have discovered oil below the
31 sea's surface, including on the ocean floor, and

32 WHEREAS, although seafood caught off of Florida's coast is
33 safe to eat and approximately 90 percent of the fishing closures
34 in federal waters have been lifted, the long-term effect on the
35 Gulf's sea life is still unknown, and

36 WHEREAS, under current law, any civil penalties recovered
37 pursuant to the Clean Water Act must be deposited into the Oil
38 Spill Liability Trust Fund to be used for clean-up and response
39 efforts for future oil spills, and

40 WHEREAS, United States Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus,
41 recommended that Congress dedicate a significant portion of any
42 civil penalties recovered under the Clean Water Act to providing
43 assistance for the region where the damage from the disaster
44 occurred, NOW, THEREFORE,

45
46 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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48 That the Legislature requests the United States Congress to
49 enact legislation that permits any civil penalties recovered
50 under the Clean Water Act due to the Deepwater Horizon oil
51 disaster to be distributed in the following manner:

52 (1) Deposited into a newly created Gulf Coast Recovery
53 Fund, which is managed by a Gulf Coast Recovery Council and used
54 to provide assistance for long-term environmental and economic
55 recovery in the Gulf;

56 (2) Directed to the five Gulf states to enable each state
57 to pursue its own recovery efforts; and

58 (3) Deposited into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for

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59 future recovery efforts.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
61 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
62 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
63 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
64 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.