

HM 1247

2018

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
3 urging Congress to oppose President Trump's executive
4 order lifting moratoria prohibiting oil and natural
5 gas drilling activities off the coast of Florida, to
6 refrain from supporting or co-sponsoring legislation
7 authorizing such activities, and to vote in opposition
8 of such legislation.
9

10 WHEREAS, across party lines, Floridians have long
11 recognized the importance of protecting Florida's natural
12 resources due to its dependence on tourism as a main source of
13 revenue for the state, and

14 WHEREAS, tourism is the state's largest industry,
15 generating \$88 billion in spending from more than 112.4 million
16 visitors in 2016, generating 9.5 percent of the state's gross
17 domestic product, and employing 1.4 million people, and

18 WHEREAS, investment analysts warn that because Florida
19 relies heavily on sales tax revenues, any decrease in tourism
20 could devastate a state economy still suffering from a housing
21 market crisis and the global recession, and

22 WHEREAS, the United States Department of the Interior
23 adopted many of the safety recommendations from the bipartisan
24 National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and

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25 Offshore Drilling, which President Trump's April 28, 2017,
26 executive order on offshore energy threatens to abolish, and
27 WHEREAS, offshore oil and gas drilling activities require
28 significant onshore infrastructure, such as pipelines and
29 refineries, which would change the unique character of the
30 state's coastline and pose a threat to treasured coastal
31 vacation destinations, and
32 WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of Ocean Energy
33 Management, there were 232 oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico
34 between 1964 and 2012, and
35 WHEREAS, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster in 2010
36 was the worst environmental tragedy in our nation's history,
37 causing the deaths of 11 people and injuring 115; pumping 210
38 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico off the coasts of
39 Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida; and contaminating
40 more than 1,100 miles of coastal marshes and beaches, and
41 WHEREAS, the economic impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil
42 spill disaster are predicted to reach \$8.7 billion by 2020,
43 causing the loss of 22,000 jobs; 10 million user-days of beach,
44 fishing, and boating activities; and more than \$400 million in
45 related leisure spending, and
46 WHEREAS, the amount of funds available for various Gulf of
47 Mexico restoration activities associated with the Deepwater
48 Horizon oil spill disaster currently exceeds \$15.8 billion, and

49 WHEREAS, Florida will receive \$2 billion for economic
50 losses as part of a settlement with BP, and

51 WHEREAS, the technologies surrounding offshore oil and
52 natural gas drilling activities are relatively unchanged and
53 carry the real risk of another oil spill disaster, and

54 WHEREAS, in 2016, 497 incidents involving offshore oil and
55 natural gas drilling activities were reported, and

56 WHEREAS, businesses along the coast related to tourism,
57 fishing, and hospitality are united in their opposition to oil
58 and natural gas drilling activities in the Gulf of Mexico, and

59 WHEREAS, numerous Florida communities have urged the
60 Legislature to oppose oil and natural gas drilling activities
61 off the coast of Florida, and

62 WHEREAS, oil and natural gas drilling activities off
63 Florida's coastline pose a tremendous threat for devastating
64 impacts on the state's natural resources and economy, and

65 WHEREAS, responsible leadership requires making decisions
66 that are consistent with the values and goals of the
67 constituents we represent, NOW, THEREFORE,

68
69 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

70
71 That the Congress of the United States is urged to oppose
72 President Trump's executive order lifting moratoria prohibiting
73 oil and natural gas drilling activities off the coast of

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74 Florida, to refrain from supporting or co-sponsoring legislation
75 authorizing such activities, and to vote in opposition of such
76 legislation.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
78 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
79 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
80 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
81 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.