2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 71

BY REPRESENTATIVE ORGERON

ENERGY/OIL & GAS: Urges and requests the administration of President Biden to end its pause on offshore oil and gas leasing

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To urge and request the administration of President Biden to immediately end the pause on
3	offshore oil and natural gas leasing and allow for the continued exploration,
4	development, and production of oil and natural gas resources in the Gulf of Mexico.
5	WHEREAS, the oil and natural gas industry has historically provided thousands of
6	high-paying jobs for Louisianans working in production or transportation of oil and natural
7	gas, generating millions of dollars in annual revenue for state and local programs, and
8	decreasing America's dependence on imported oil; and
9	WHEREAS, recent action by the federal government has paused offshore oil and
10	natural gas leasing and stopped pipeline development; and
11	WHEREAS, an extended leasing ban would greatly diminish investment and activity
12	in Gulf of Mexico production and result in substantial, irreplaceable job losses and loss of
13	revenue to the state and its communities; and
14	WHEREAS, Gulf of Mexico production provides the only annual recurring revenue
15	from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, more commonly referred to as GOMESA, a
16	standing revenue sharing arrangement; and
17	WHEREAS, under the GOMESA revenue sharing provisions, Gulf oil and gas
18	producing states, including Louisiana, split 37.5 percent of qualified outer continental shelf
19	revenues and 12.5 percent of revenues are directed to the Land and Water Conservation Fund
20	stateside program, through which states can receive up to \$125 million a year in grants; and

1	WHEREAS, the GOMESA revenues fund vital coastal protection and restoration
2	programs as set forth by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's Master Plan for
3	a Sustainable Coast; and
4	WHEREAS, an Obama Administration report from the Bureau of Ocean Energy
5	Management analyzing the effects of offshore leasing restrictions found that United
6	States greenhouse gas emissions would be little affected and would increase globally in the
7	absence of new offshore leasing due to increased foreign imports; and
8	WHEREAS, the Gulf of Mexico has the lowest carbon intensity in the world in terms
9	of emissions, other than Saudi Arabia, and would be lower than Saudi imports, with
10	1,274,450 barrels of oil or 62 percent of all 2021 Gulf of Mexico deepwater production
11	being produced by a public corporation with an existing net zero pledge; and
12	WHEREAS, the oil and natural gas industry has invested over \$108 billion in
13	greenhouse gas mitigating technologies contributing to a sharp decline in emission of CO2
14	in the United States; and
15	WHEREAS, from 2000 to 2018, emissions declined 67 percent in the United Sates
16	relative to oil and gas production; and
17	WHEREAS, in the same period the of time, carbon dioxide emissions in the rest of
18	the world increased by 29 percent; and
19	WHEREAS, the 2020 Louisiana Emissions Analysis, published by the Consumer
20	Energy Alliance, a leading voice for sensible energy policies for families and businesses,
21	found that emissions declined by 71 percent across the state since 1990; and
22	WHEREAS, during that same period of emissions reduction, Louisiana's gross
23	domestic product surged 177 percent; and
24	WHEREAS, pipeline transportation provides a consumer-friendly and intrinsically
25	safer mode of transportation compared to others that have higher emissions; and
26	WHEREAS, restricting pipeline development results in higher costs to consumers
27	and higher transportation emissions; and

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1	WHEREAS, because projections show energy demand will continue to rise,
2	restricting development on federal lands and waters is nothing more than an "import more
3	oil" policy forcing the United States to rely on imports from sometimes hostile foreign
4	countries with lower environmental standards; and
5	WHEREAS, broad and predictable access to offshore oil and natural gas resources
6	will help support and grow more jobs and activity in Louisiana and the Gulf region, reduce
7	America's reliance on overseas imports, and increase revenues to the state and its localities.
8	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
9	urge and request the administration of President Biden to immediately end its pause on
10	offshore oil and natural gas leasing and allow for the continued exploration, development,
11	and production of oil and natural gas resources in the Gulf of Mexico.
12	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana also expresses its
13	support for the ongoing development of America's superior pipeline transportation network
14	to the benefit of American consumers and American workers and allow the inherent
15	economic benefits thereof to be fully realized.
16	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
17	president of the United States, each member of the president's cabinet, and to the members
18	of the capitol press corps.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Urges and requests the Biden administration to end the pause on offshore oil and gas leasing while supporting development of the pipeline transportation network for the benefit of American consumers and workers.